JUSTIN TIME

JUSTIN TRUDEAU LAUNCHES HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE FEDERAL LIBERAL LEADERSHIP BEFORE A CHEERING CROWD IN MONTREAL PAGES 14-15

VANCOUVER metro®

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1 HURT AFTER BLAST, BLAZE

A plume of black smoke fills the sky in Langley on Tuesday afternoon following an explosion and fire at an industrial area. One person was taken to hospital with serious injuries after an industrial accident set fire to a building and several trucks. The blaze caused power outages in the area and resulted in the closure of the nearby Golden Ears Bridge for about two hours. Story, page 7. CURTIS KREKLAU/FOR METRO

Thin-streets idea has corner-lot owners worried

Housing. City manager questioned over plan to create cheaper homes

Vancouver councillors and homeowners grilled deputy city manager David McLellan Tuesday about the affordable-housing task force's proposed thin-streets concept.

The 17-member task force recommended six priority actions and nine additional actions in its final report released last week, which was the result of 10 months of study and public consultations.

But not everyone is happy with its recommendation that the city immediately begin pilot projects to create parcels of land for more ground-oriented housing by thinning certain residential streets. Kitsilano homeowner David Grigg said he and his wife bought a unit in a raised bungalow 20 years ago precisely because of its location.

"All of us are petrified at losing our light," he said, addressing McLellan directly outside council chambers. "If a thin street were put in place, some of the treescape would disappear. It has to."

McLellan did his best to assure Grigg that no one would be forced into anything if the task force's recommendations were to go ahead, and all standard rezoning procedures, including hearings, would still apply.

"There would be a public process around any of these sorts of things, and the neighbourhood impact is a very important consideration for council," he said.

NPA Coun. Elizabeth Ball questioned McLellan about how corner-lot property values would be affected by thin streets. He referred her to two solutions put forward by Vancouver housing and development expert and one-time NPA candidate Michael Geller.

Geller has suggested corner-lot owners who agree to let new homes be built beside them could be rewarded with the opportunity to rezone their own lots for up to three units, allowing them to unlock some of the equity in their land while creating even more housing stock.

Otherwise, Geller said corner-lot owners should be given an easy out: "If the people on the corner lot said, 'Hell no, we don't want to be here,' perhaps the city could acquire or facilitate a developer acquiring their lot and then the city could combine the two lots into one, and that would be big enough to put townhouses on."

Geller added he is skeptical thin streets will take off on a wide scale because of problems with rerouting underground sewage and water lines.

KATE WEBB/METRO

At city hall today

- There are 16 speakers registered to address city council and staff Wednesday before council votes on whether to adopt the task force's recommendations. Anyone who wishes to speak can register up until 10 minutes before the agenda resumes at 9:30 a.m.

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Zoophilia

Man gets three years' probation for bestiality

A Vancouver man has avoided jail time after pleading guilty Tuesday to a bestiality charge for having sex with his two dogs.

Brian Cutteridge, 38, was handed a suspended sentence and three years' probation.

The former veterinary office worker is to provide a list of all animals he owns to allow the B.C. SPCA to come to his home for monthly inspections, and he is not to own, possess or care for any female dogs.

The offence relates to multiple incidents of sexual activity involving two female dogs, a Rottweiler and a golden retriever, from 1998 to 2005.

"We're definitely pleased that he pled guilty because he has been outspoken in his support of decriminalizing bestiality," said Marcie Moriarty, head of the B.C. SPCA's cruelty-investigations department.

But Moriarty says that the sentence is a "little light" and the association was hoping for a lifetime ban on Cutteridge owning or caring for female dogs.

Cutteridge was arrested in July 2010 after the B.C. SPCA and RCMP searched his home in 100 Mile House, where they found and seized video of Cutteridge engaging in sexual acts with two dogs that have since died from unrelated causes.

The investigation into Cutteridge's alleged activities began in 2010 after authorities were tipped off by a veterinarian concerned about the physical condition of another dog he owned.

In an online paper, Cutteridge has argued that the laws that condemn zoophilia, or sex between humans and animals, are "logically incoherent" and "inherently unjust."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Former Vancouver Olympic organizing committee president and CEO John Furlong, now executive chair of Major League Soccer's Vancouver Whitecaps, steps away from the podium during a news conference in Vancouver on Thursday. Furlong was responding to allegations of abuse brought forward by former First Nations students in Burns Lake. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Furlong hoping to set record straight

'Clarity, context.' Story in the Georgia Straight alleges ex-VANOC chief abused First Nation students

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Former Vancouver Olympics chief John Furlong said Tuesday that a lawsuit is in the works, but he wanted to "set the record straight" about a story alleging he abused First Nations students while teaching at a Catholic school in Burns Lake more than 40 years ago.

The Georgia Straight published a story written by freelance writer Laura Robinson last week, containing accusations from eight former students at Immaculata Elementary School — where Furlong taught physical education during 1969 and 1970.

Furlong "categorically" denied all allegations the day the story was published.

In a statement posted on his website Tuesday afternoon, Furlong said he wants to provide "clarity, context and background to a significantly inaccurate and libelous story."

"The past five days have been humiliating and demeaning beyond anything my family and I have ever experienced," he said.

"My loved ones in Canada and Ireland have been subjected to scrutiny, sarcasm, disrespect and outrageous invasions of privacy. The story is a disgrace beyond words."

He also elaborated that legal action against both Robinson and the Georgia Straight is in process for "a retraction, full apology and substantial monetary damages."

Furlong takes issue with a number of statements in Robinson's story, including ones concerning his time in Burns Lake and the birth of his son.

Furlong said he came to Burns Lake in 1969 and "cared deeply for the students." He volunteered at the school for 14 months before moving to Prince George with his wife and returning to Ireland by 1972.

"As this time will be discussed at length in court, I can say only that as a volunteer teacher I treated everyone in a fair, appropriate manner and at no time unlawfully or harmfully," he wrote.

"I have never denied nor purposefully omitted speaking publicly of this time. It was not material in any way to my very difficult and emotional decision to leave Ireland permanently and where the story of my life as a Canadian begins," he added.

Furlong also went on to accuse Robinson of having "open contempt" for the Olympic Games and male authority figures in sport, something he claims was well known to the leadership at VANOC.

Robinson has said she plans to countersue Furlong for comments made questioning her research and ethics.

1 NEWS

Mobile news

Qriket

Man vs. bear? Scan the code to see how one woman's NIMBYism evolves into yelling at bears.

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Not welcome. B.C. raising a stink to keep crop-munching bugs out

The province is trying to raise public awareness of a little bug that could wreak havoc on fruit and vegetable crops.

The brown marmorated stink bug, which attacks tree fruits, berries, grapes, vegetables, corn and ornamental plants, has been found in California, Oregon and Washington state. While it hasn't been reported in B.C., the agriculture ministry is anxious to keep it out.

The ministry says the best way to do that is for travellers not to bring fruits or vegetables into B.C. from the U.S., other countries or other provinces.

The stink bug is native to Asia. It was first found in North America in Pennsylvania in 2001, and has since spread across the U.S.

Have you seen this bug? If so, contact the nearest agriculture office. COURTESY OF B.C. GOVERNMENT

The adult bugs are brown, about 13 to 17 millimetres long, and are distinguished by distinctive white bands on their antennae and their tendency to cluster in groups.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

False-identity allegation. Police awaiting charge approval for Port Mann Bridge tolling worker

Coquitlam RCMP are recommending charges against a man they say had access to the personal information of people applying for Port Mann Bridge toll decals.

RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Jamie Chung alleges the man was hired to work at TransCanada Flow, the company in charge of tolling on the new bridge, under a false identity.

"It is believed he pretended to be something else so he could work there," Chung said.

The employee, who has since been fired and arrested, dealt with 271 customers and was in a position to collect their names, addresses and credit-card information.

Chung said there is nothing to suggest the man was working as part of a ring, but noted the investigation is early.

Police are awaiting approval from the Crown before specifying the charges and releasing the man's identity.

The affected customers have been notified.

Chung said there is no evidence that anything had been done with the victims' personal information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Police investigating Mission shooting

RCMP are investigating a shooting in Mission in which a man was wounded in his left hand.

Police say the shooting took place between late Sunday and early Monday and the 20-year-old man later showed up in hospital for treatment.

They say the man is known to them and isn't co-operating, although he has told investigators he was jumped by four men in a park.

The victim is now out of hospital and police are looking for witnesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coroner investigation

Crime not a factor in Vernon park death: Police

There was no foul play in the death of a 47-year-old man whose body was found in a park in Vernon, RCMP say.

Cpl. Gerry Kovacs says police have turned the case over to the coroner's service, which says more tests are needed to determine the cause of death of Terrence Fergus, whose body was found in Polson Park last Wednesday.

Fergus was known to police as a transient who struggled with addiction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Christy Clark leaves a scrum with the media in Calgary on Monday after her meeting with Alberta Premier Alison Redford to discuss the Northern Gateway pipeline. Clark held out the threat of court action if Ottawa tries to force the pipeline through. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clark again demands pipeline revenue

Northern Gateway.

'There is no way the federal government or anyone else ... is going to be able to force (the pipeline) through': Premier

Raw deal?

"If you were in business, would you take (the pipeline) deal? The answer for me is, quite simply, I will not."

Premier Christy Clark telling students at the University of Calgary that B.C. stands to bear all the risk of Northern Gateway and only eight per cent of the financial rewards

Premier Christy Clark is continuing to signal that her government could make things difficult for the proposed Northern Gateway oilsands pipeline if its demands for a greater share of the economic benefits aren't met.

"British Columbia has the power to grant or withhold 60 permits," she told students on Tuesday at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy.

"British Columbia's power would be required to power up the pipeline from BC Hydro, a Crown corporation," she said.

"There's a whole number of things the British Columbia government could do, and certainly if this project was forced through without meeting the five conditions, it wouldn't be just the British Columbia government that would be in court. It would be every First Nation across the line."

Clark has set out five conditions under which B.C. would allow Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain expansion to go ahead.

Three have to do with the environment, the fourth with First Nations consultation and the fifth — the most contentious — with reaping a "fair share" of the economic benefits.

This isn't the first time the province has tried to make this point. In July, Environment Minister Terry Lake warned that even if the National Energy Board recommends approval of Enbridge's $6-billion pipeline, there are scores of provincial permits that must be obtained.

Clark told the students that it is important for Canada to get its resources to market — the Indian middle class is growing fast and China is rapidly urbanizing.

"Canada needs to be a part of that."

But she said moving thick oilsands bitumen product via the pipeline poses a big environmental risk — riskier than lumber, natural gas or other products — and needs to be handled with extreme care.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bacon at mosque could be evidence on hate crime

Mounties are investigating a possible hate crime after several piles of bacon were found outside a mosque in Port Coquitlam.

Police say it's the second act of vandalism at the Masjid Al-Hidayah Islamic Centre in the past 18 months.

Muslims consider pork a symbol of impurity.

Saad Bahr, president of the Islamic Society of British Columbia, said Tuesday that it's clear the action was intended to offend, but his group would welcome the opportunity to speak to those responsible and have them learn about Muslim beliefs.

"We believe that whoever is responsible for this act does not know us and does not understand what we stand for," Bahr said in a news release.

Police were called to the same mosque in March of last year after someone spray-painted racially offensive words on the outside wall.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Jamie Chung said the bacon was scattered around the property in piles of four or five pieces each.

"It is very deliberate if (they) spread them out in several different places. It is not just someone walking by and dropping a package of bacon on the sidewalk."

The property is equipped with closed-circuit cameras and investigators are reviewing the video.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Woman grateful late husband tried to save her

Nevada. Knowledge of Albert Chretien's last moments and death brings comfort to family, brother says

The wife of a B.C. man whose remains were found in the Nevada wilderness a year and a half after he went for help says she's grateful he trekked through deep snow for such a distance before lying down to die.

Rita Chretien said Tuesday that Albert Chretien hiked a great distance for her sake after their van got stuck in the mud on their way to Las Vegas from their home in Penticton.

Chretien, who survived for seven weeks on her own in the van before she was found, said she'd tell her husband: "'Thank you for your efforts.' I know he did it for me and I was so grateful."

Albert Chretien's body was found Saturday by elk hunters in Merritt Mountain in Nevada after they discovered his backpack. Police identified him through items in his pocket.

Deputy David Prall of the Elko County Sheriff's Office said Chretien had hiked more than 14 kilometres on a winding route and was within 10 kilometres of the community of Mountain City when the battery in the GPS he was using probably burned out and his path began to angle too far north.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peace at the end

- Henry Chretien said his younger brother's body was found under a tree: "He lay down and under the protection of the tree for a much-needed rest and died peacefully in his sleep."

Rita Chretien, wife of Albert Chretien, addresses the media at the RCMP detachment in Penticton on Tuesday. JEFF BASSETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Interior. Bears roaming near people may be killed

B.C.'s environment minister says conservation officers in the southern Interior may be forced to euthanize as many as nine black bears that have lost their fear of humans.

Terry Lake says two bear families are patrolling a section of bush around the Adams Lake Indian Band, about 60 kilometres east of Kamloops.

Conservation officers were expected to travel to the community Tuesday to reassess the situation, says Lake, and the ministry doesn't want to take any chances with the animals.

But not everybody, including band members and neighbours of the First Nation, share Lake's fears.

"They don't bother us," said Zoe Albert, who lives next to the First Nations community. "We like the wildlife. I'm not complaining about them because they have to live, too."

Gladys Arnouse, who lives on the reserve, adds, "The bears have been here forever. We're just more careful of them. The kids have always grown up knowing that there are bears around this time of year coming down to the lake to fish."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They're out and about everywhere, including around the daycare... With habituated bears like this, there may be no other alternative than to euthanize them."

Environment Minister Terry Lake

Liberals. MLA Slater aims for another term in office

Boundary-Similkameen Liberal MLA John Slater says he will run again in the next provincial election.

Slater spent the summer mulling his options and says he is sticking with the Liberals.

He was first elected in 2009, after serving two terms as mayor of Osoyoos and several terms as a councillor in the southern Okanagan town.

Slater announced Sunday that he had decided to run in the 2013 general election but says he is waiting for his riding association to make the announcement official this week.

Since August, several senior Liberal MLAs and cabinet ministers have announced they will not seek re-election. They include former finance minister Kevin Falcon and former education minister George Abbott.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

September

Local home sales take steep dive

Home sales have tumbled to the basement in Metro Vancouver.

The Greater Vancouver Real Estate Board says home sales plunged more than 32 per cent in September compared to the same month last year, and the sales were 41.6 per cent below the 10-year sales average for the month.

Board president Eugen Klein says prices have remained relatively stable.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Okanagan

Rescue group secures winch

A volunteer rescue group in the North Okanagan will become the first in Canada to have its own winch capable of boosting rescuers — and patients — up to a hovering helicopter.

The winch is similar to those used by the military and coast guard.

A pilot project, operated by Vernon Search and Rescue, will use the equipment as a regional resource for the central Interior.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jim Green to be honoured at SFU celebration

Jim Green, right, received the Freedom of the City award from Mayor Gregor Robertson earlier this year. HANDOUT/METRO FILE

Mahatma Gandhi Commemorative Lecture. Green helped contribute and guide programming of SFU's cultural unit

MATT KIELTYKA
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Jim Green, the former Vancouver councillor who died earlier this year, is set to be honoured at a place close to his heart.

Simon Fraser University's downtown campus, in the Woodward's development that Green was so instrumental in creating, is hosting this year's Mahatma Gandhi Commemorative Lecture, which will highlight Green's contribution and commitment to social justice.

If you go

- The event runs from 3 to 7 p.m., registration is free.

Vancouver councillor Geoff Meggs, MLA Jenny Kwan and SFU Woodward's cultural unit co-ordinator Am Johal will be speaking at the event.

Aside from making the Woodward's complex possible, Green was one of the first people to help contribute and guide the programming of SFU's cultural unit.

The Ghandi Commemorative Lecture is an award presented annually by the Thakore Family Foundation, India Club of Vancouver and the J.S. Woodsworth Chair in the Humanities at SFU.

Follow Matt Kieltyka on Twitter @Mkieltyka

Explosion. Industrial accident causes fire, power outage, bridge closure

One person has been seriously injured after several explosions and a fire in an industrial area of Langley, B.C.

RCMP Cpl. Holly Marks said an industrial accident Tuesday set fire to a building and several truck trailers at a trucking operation.

"The initial explosion of unknown chemicals has triggered a chain of smaller explosions currently being addressed," she said.

"There is currently no power in the area due to several hydro transformers having blown."

The fire belched out a thick, black plume of smoke that has forced the evacuation of nearby businesses and residents for several blocks around.

Rail and vehicle traffic has been closed off in the area, and southbound traffic on the nearby Golden Ears Bridge was shut down for about two hours.

BC Ambulance Service spokeswoman Kelsie Carwithen said the injured person was airlifted to Vancouver General Hospital.

Officials from Transport Canada and WorkSafeBC are on the scene. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still unfolding

"As far as I know, no other patients have been transported as of yet, but the incident is still unfolding, so you can imagine that may change."
Kelsie Carwithen
BC Ambulance Service spokeswoman

Support staff

University staff hope for action after strike notice

Unionized support staff and teaching assistants at B.C.'s five largest universities have served a 72-hour strike notice.

Canadian Union of Public Employees members at Simon Fraser University, the University of Northern B.C., Thompson Rivers University and the University of British Columbia served notice Monday.

They join CUPE staff at the University of Victoria, who issued strike notice last month.

UVic workers have been conducting escalating job action since Sept. 4, ranging from an overtime ban to the closure of several campus buildings.

The 12,000 union members at the five universities say they have been without a contract since 2010 and hope strike notice will force the universities to come to the table.

The main issues are job security, inflation protection and a fair and reasonable wage increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Quick snap of best friends wins Downtown Eastside photo contest

2012 Hope in Shadows winner. Amy Wilson doesn't even own a camera, but managed to clinch photo prize

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Amy Wilson didn't know what to say.

She thought she did, but when her named was called as the winner of the 2012 Hope in Shadows Downtown Eastside photography contest the right words were hard to come by.

"I was shaking and tearing up," Wilson said after the award ceremony. "I was just happy to get the pictures for myself because I don't own a camera. I didn't know I would win."

Now her photo will be immortalized in the annual calendar produced by the Pivot Legal Society, which went on sale Tuesday.

Wilson's winning shot, "Never ending friendship," is a simple self-portrait of herself and her best friend.

"We've been through a lot, been there for each other through thick and thin, good and bad," said Wilson. "When I was turning on my camera, I had a couple of shots left. I threw my arm around her and gave her a big hug."

It's a photo that resonates on a personal level for Wilson.

The bond between her and her friend has been passed down to their children, who go to the same school together.

That bond also resonated with the judges, tasked with choosing the photos that best represent this year's "what I value" theme from 200 community participants.

"I think it shows the community values and how important it is," said Pivot's Carolyn Wong, the Hope in Shadows co-ordinator.

Amy Wilson's photo "Never ending friendship" won the 2012 Hope In Shadows photo contest. HANDOUT/HOPE IN SHADOWS

A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

An alarming 40,000 kids drop out of high school every year. Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada are committed to changing that. They provide a safe and supportive place where kids can develop confidence and life skills. They offer programs like *Rogers Raising the Grade*™ to help kids with their studies. The Club is a place where kids can drop in, so they're less likely to drop out.

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Police arrest 'Internet Black Widow'

Attempted murder charge. Cape Breton woman arrested after her husband suddenly became ill; previous charges include theft and manslaughter

Police in Cape Breton have charged a 77-year-old woman infamously known as the "Internet Black Widow" with attempted murder after her husband suddenly became ill.

Melissa Ann Weeks of New Glasgow, N.S., is also charged with administering a noxious thing.

Investigators say the accused's 75-year-old husband was taken to hospital in Sydney, N.S., on the weekend after falling ill at an inn.

They arrested a woman following an investigation into the health of the New Glasgow man who police say has since been treated and released.

Weeks is due in Sydney provincial court later today.

She was sentenced in 2005 to five years in prison on seven counts of theft from a man in Florida she had met online.

Investigators in that case said she stole about $20,000 US from Alexander Strategos.

In 2001, she was convicted of manslaughter in the death of her husband, Gordon Stewart, who she had drugged and run over twice with a car in 1991 outside Halifax.

She served two years of a six-year sentence for that crime. THE CANADIAN PRESS

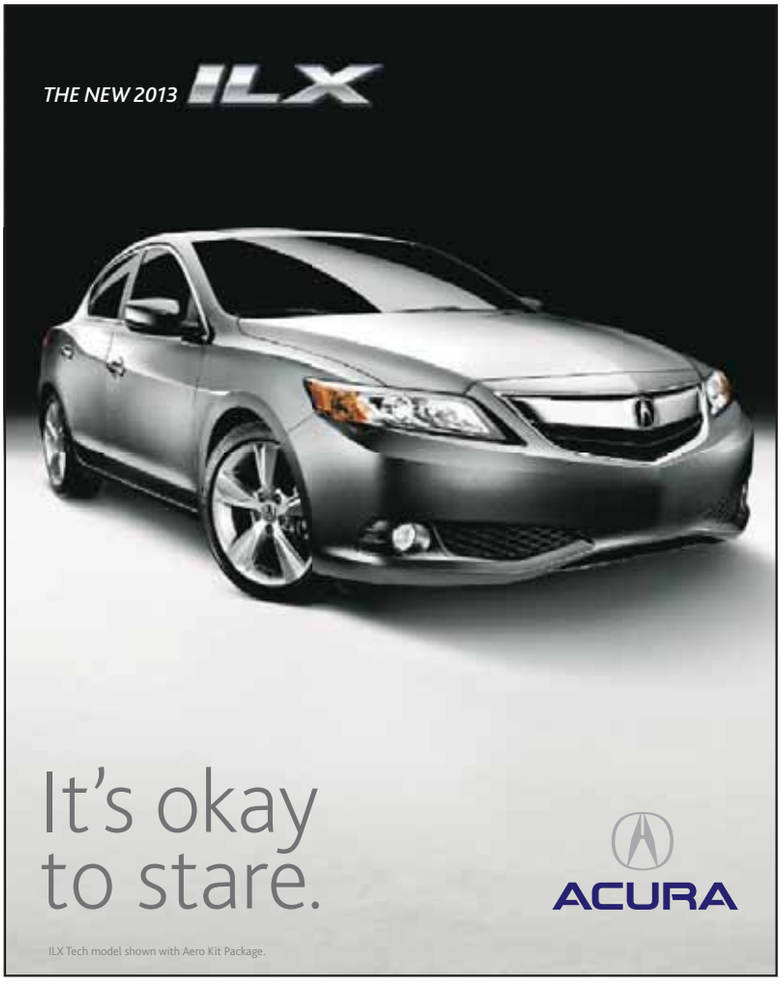
The incident

- Cheryl Chambers, the operator of a bed-and-breakfast in North Sydney, said a couple named Fred and Millie Weeks checked in early Friday morning.
- Chambers said on Saturday morning, Millie came downstairs alone and said her husband wasn't well. She said paramedics later arrived and took her husband to a hospital.

Melissa Ann Weeks leaves a Cape Breton regional police vehicle escorted by Const. Erin Donovan for a court appearance at the Sydney Justice Centre Tuesday. VAUGHAN MERCHANT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rallying for peace

An Indian man and children dressed as Mahatma Gandhi wait for the start of a rally against violence to mark the anniversary of Gandhi's birth in Ahmadabad, India, Tuesday. AJIT SOLANKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gay teens

Group files suit to block law that bans conversion therapy

A Christian legal group has filed a lawsuit to overturn a first-of-its-kind California law that prohibits licensed mental-health professionals from practising therapies aimed at making gay and lesbian teenagers straight.

The Sacramento Pacific Legal Institute is challenging the law signed Saturday by Gov. Jerry Brown. The lawsuit was filed late Monday in U.S. District Court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged gang rape

Investigation involving former IMF official dropped

A prosecutor in France says officials have dropped a preliminary investigation into allegations of gang rape in a Washington, D.C., hotel involving former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

State prosecutor Frederic Fevre said Tuesday that the supposed victim, an escort girl, went back on her original account and now says no rape was involved. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mall collapse

Families of Elliot Lake victims claim negligence in lawsuit

Relatives of two women killed when a rooftop garage collapsed in Elliot Lake, Ont., in June are alleging the provincial government and mall owner were negligent in lawsuits that claim complaints about the structure were ignored.

The parallel suits, which also name the city and engineers who said the Algo Centre Mall was safe, seek several million dollars in damages for relatives of Doloris Perizzolo and Lucie Aylwin. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pope's butler says he's innocent of theft

Pope Benedict XVI's one-time butler declared Tuesday he was innocent of a charge of aggravated theft of the Pope's private correspondence, but acknowledged he photocopied the papers and said he feels guilty that he betrayed the trust of the pontiff he loves like a father.

Paolo Gabriele took the stand Tuesday in a Vatican courtroom to defend himself against accusations of his role in one of the most damaging scandals of Benedict's pontificate.

Prosecutors say Gabriele stole the Pope's letters and documents alleging power struggles and corruption inside the Vatican and leaked them to a journalist in an unprecedented papal security breach.

Gabriele faces four years in prison if he is found guilty, although most Vatican watchers expect he will receive a papal pardon if he is convicted.

During Tuesday's hearing, Gabriele's attorney complained that her client spent his first 20 days in Vatican detention in a room so small he couldn't stretch his arms out and with lights kept on 24 hours a day.

Vatican police swiftly defended their treatment of Gabriele, but the Vatican prosecutor opened an investigation regardless.

Quoted

"I declare myself innocent concerning the charge of aggravated theft. I feel guilty of having betrayed the trust of the Holy Father, whom I love as a son would."

Paolo Gabriele, on stealing Pope Benedict XVI's private letters

Prosecutors have said Gabriele, 46, has confessed to leaking copies of the documents to Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi, because he wanted to expose the "evil and corruption" in the church.

They quoted him as saying in a June 5 interrogation that even though he knew taking the documents was wrong, he felt inspired by the Holy Spirit "to bring the church back on the right track." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paolo Gabriele
L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police arrest 7 crew members after Hong Kong boat crash

Relatives of the victims throw paper money on Tuesday as they pay tribute to the ill-fated people aboard a boat that sank Monday night near Lamma Island, off the coast of Hong Kong Island, killing at least 38 people. VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourning. Dozens of relatives travelled by boat to pray alongside Taoist priests and toss spirit money into wind

Police arrested seven crew members Tuesday from two boats that collided in Hong Kong waters, killing 38 holiday revelers, but offered no theory about how the vessels ran into each other on a clear night in one of the safest and most regulated waterways in Asia.

The Monday night crash was Hong Kong's deadliest accident in more than 15 years, and its worst maritime accident in more than 40.

Some relatives of the dead went to the scene off Hong Kong island's southwestern coast to participate in traditional Chinese mourning rituals on Tuesday, while others waited at the morgue for news about loved ones.

Police Commissioner Tsang Wai-hung said six people were detained on suspicion of endangering passengers by operating their craft in an unsafe way. Police later announced a seventh arrest. Tsang said both crews are suspected of having not "exercised the care required of them by law," but he did not elaborate.

The ferry collided with the Lamma IV, which is owned by the Hong Kong Electric Co. utility and was taking more than 100 employees and their families to famed Victoria Harbor to watch a fireworks display in celebration of China's National Day and mid-autumn festival.

The government said 101 people were sent to hospitals, 66 were discharged, and four had serious injuries or were in critical condition.

The ferry was damaged but completed its journey, and some of its passengers were treated for injuries. Local TV later showed its bow chewed up and chunks missing.

Hong Kong and Kowloon (Ferry) Holdings Ltd., the ferry operator, did not return calls seeking comment.

The government said 28 bodies were recovered overnight, and eight more people were declared dead at hospitals. Two bodies found aboard the vessel Tuesday raised the death toll to 38, according to government statements. At least four of those killed were children.

Salvage crews raised the half-submerged Lamma IV using three crane barges.

Victor Li, deputy head of the company that owns Power Assets, said the company would provide emergency payments of 200,000 Hong Kong dollars ($25,380) to the family of each person killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Context

- Large-scale accidents are rare for Hong Kong, which has one of Asia's most advanced infrastructures and first-rate public services.

Security request in Libya was denied: Congressmen

U.S. diplomats in Libya made repeated requests for increased security for the consulate in Benghazi before it was attacked last month, but they were turned down by officials in Washington, leaders of a Congressional committee said Tuesday.

In a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Reps. Darrell Issa and Jason Chaffetz said their information came from "individuals with direct knowledge of events in Libya."

The two Republicans said the Sept. 11 attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans was the latest in a long line of attacks on Western diplomats and officials in Libya in recent months.

Stevens was the first sitting U.S. ambassador to be killed in more than 30 years.

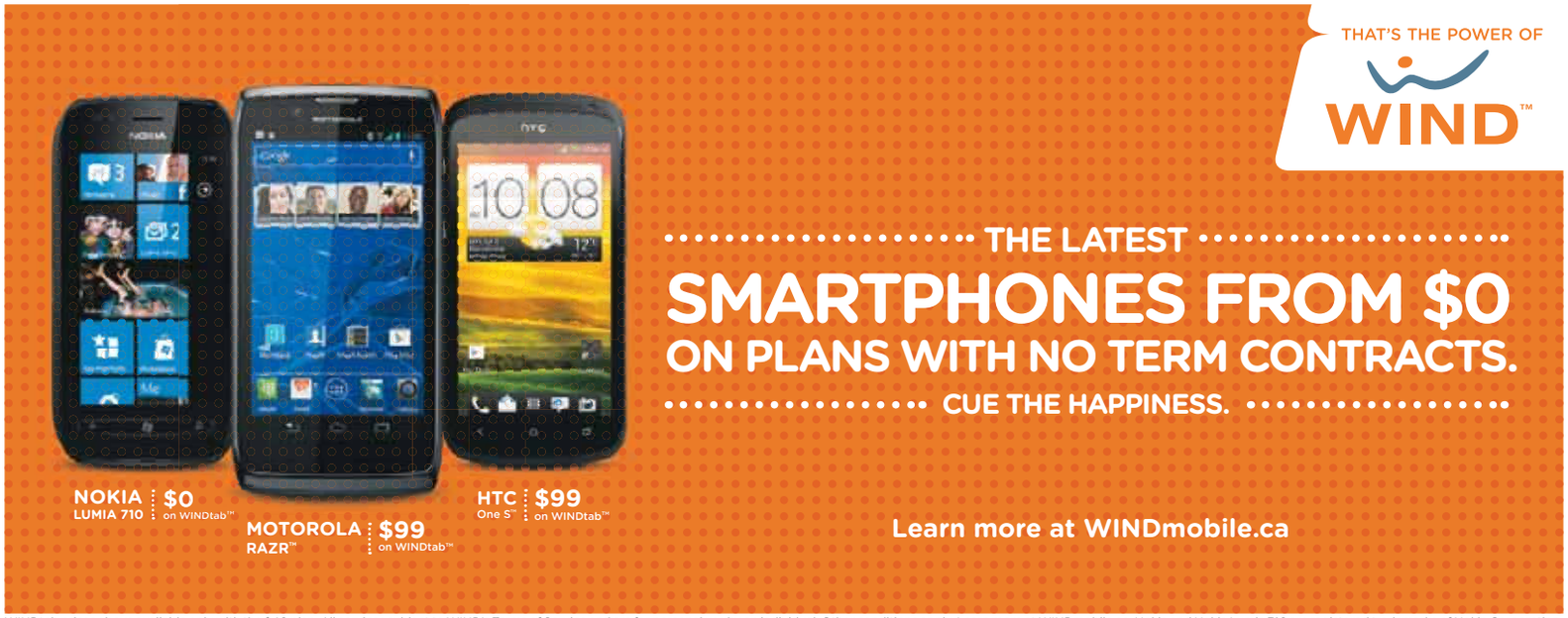
The lawmakers asked Clinton whether the State Department was aware of the previous incidents, whether the level of security that was provided to the U.S. mission met the security threat and how the department responded to requests for more security. The lawmakers plan a hearing of their House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on Oct. 10.

The attack came amid protests across the Muslim world over an amateur anti-Islam video produced in the U.S.

The State Department has declined to answer questions about whether extra security was sought by officials in Benghazi ahead of the Sept. 11 attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Before the attack

Weeks before Sept. 11, the Libyan guards at the consulate were warned by family members to quit their jobs because there were rumours of an impending attack.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ILX Tech model shown with Aero Kit Package.

Churches launch 'souls to polls' to rally voters

It's not just the collection plate that's getting passed around at hundreds of mainly African-American and Latino churches in U.S. battleground states ahead of the November presidential election.

Church leaders are distributing voter registration cards in the middle of services, and many are pledging caravans of "souls to the polls" to deliver the vote in a close race between U.S. President Barack Obama, the country's first black president, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

Activists worry that new election rules in some states, from tougher photo identification requirements to fewer days of early voting, are unfairly targeting minority voters — specifically African-Americans who tend to vote heavily for Democrats.

"It has ignited a sense of urgency and collective power that we can take by engaging in the process," said the Rev. Dawn Riley Duval at the Shorter Community A.M.E. Church in Denver. Colorado is one of the nine key states that doesn't reliably vote Democrat or Republican and will determine the election.

Minority vote

- In 2008, Obama won 95 per cent of black voters and is likely to get an overwhelming majority again. He also won among Latinos, a rapidly growing constituency that also tilts heavily toward the Democrat in polls this year.
- In many states with early voting, the Sunday before Election Day in 2008 was a church-based political event in which minority congregations went en masse to polling places. In Florida, 33.2 per cent of all African-American voters and 23.6 per cent of Latino voters cast ballots.

In the biggest of the battleground states like Florida and Ohio, proponents of the new election rules deny they are aimed at suppressing the minority vote in hopes of helping Republicans win more races. Reasons for the rules vary between fighting fraud and purging ineligible voters.

But to some African-American leaders like the Rev. F.E. Perry, a bishop in Ohio's Church of God in Christ, it's as if the 1960s barriers to voting for many blacks, especially in southern states, have returned all over again.

"We've come too far to sit idly by and watch that happen," Perry said. "We want to get souls to the polls. Whatever it takes to get them there, that's what we're going to do."

In a close race, a state such as Florida — where a mere 537 votes decided the 2000 contest between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore — could prove decisive.

One organization, the faith-based PICO National Network, staged a Let My People Vote Sunday in September in which 300 churches around the country held voter registration drives during services and recruited churchgoers to go out and register even more people. The goal was to sign up around 75,000 people, PICO policy director Gordon Whitman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A volunteer prepares labels Tuesday for seats in the debate hall ahead of the U.S. presidential debate at the University of Denver in Denver, Colo. President Barack Obama and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney will hold their first debate there on Wednesday. DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romney looks to turn tide against Obama

Heated battle.
Significant Hispanic population could determine who wins in battleground Colorado

Republican challenger Mitt Romney prepared in seclusion Tuesday for his first debate against U.S. President Barack Obama, badly needing a stellar performance Wednesday to turn the tide of polling before the Nov. 6 election.

Obama leads in many of the nine battleground states that will decide the election, and all but two of those states have early voting, meaning more people are already locking in their votes every day.

Neither candidate had public events Tuesday as they studied for a debate that will focus largely on the economy and other domestic issues.

Romney contends his top issue is strengthening the U.S. economy and creating jobs, issues that are most important among voters. But the former Massachusetts governor is also attacking Obama on foreign policy after Muslim anger over an amateur anti-Islam film made in the U.S. sparked violent attacks on U.S. diplomatic missions.

"For the last four years, we've had a foreign policy led by a president who believes that the strength of his personality is going to get people to do the right things. Well, we've seen fires burning in U.S. embassies around the world," Romney told voters in Colorado on Monday night.

The Obama campaign called Romney's foreign policy stances "incoherent."

Though Romney's campaign once talked about nothing but the still-weak economy, the multimillionaire businessman recently has turned to other subjects, including wealth distribution, as he has looked for any chance to gain ground.

Secretly-taped video

"Sometimes the point doesn't get made the right way."

Rep. Paul Ryan, Mitt Romney's running mate, when asked about the video released last month of Romney telling donors that he would never persuade the 47 per cent of Americans who support Obama to "take responsibility" for their lives.

Obama retreated Tuesday to a desert resort in Nevada for three days of intensive debate preparation.

Top advisers are focused on helping Obama trim his often-lengthy explanations. Equally important is coaching Obama to look calm and presidential during an expected onslaught of criticism from Romney.

Romney spent more than eight days in September holding mock debates. He planned another day of preparation Tuesday in Colorado, the site of Wednesday's debate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Farmer eaten by his hogs

Mysterious death.
Only dentures and body pieces found as authorities investigate possible scenarios

This June photo shows hogs at a farm in Buckhart, Ill. An Oregon farmer was eaten by his hogs, investigators say. M. SPENCER GREEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Authorities are investigating how a U.S. farmer was eaten by his hogs.

Terry Vance Garner, 69, never returned after he set out to feed his animals last Wednesday on his Oregon farm, the Coos County district attorney said Monday.

A family member found Garner's dentures and pieces of his body in the hog enclosure several hours later, but most of his remains had been consumed, District Attorney Paul Frasier said. Several of the hogs weighed 700 pounds or more.

It's possible Garner had a medical emergency, such as a heart attack, or was knocked over by the animals, then killed and eaten, Frasier said, adding that at least one hog had previously bitten Garner.

The possibility of foul play is being investigated as well.

"For all we know, it was a horrific accident, but it's so doggone weird that we have to look at all possibilities," Frasier told a local newspaper.

A pathologist was unable to identify a cause or manner of death, the newspaper reported. The remains will be examined by a forensic anthropologist at the University of Oregon.

Terry Garner was "a good-hearted guy" who cared for several huge adult sows and a boar named Teddy, said his brother, Michael Garner, 75, of Myrtle Point.

"Those animals were his life," Michael Garner said. "He had all kinds of birds, and turkeys that ran all over the place. Everybody knew him."

Domestic hogs are not typically known to be as aggressive as their feral cousins, but "there is some degree of danger associated with any animal," John Killefer, who heads the Animal and Rangeland Sciences Department at Oregon State University in Corvallis, told the newspaper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dog trapped under car survives a 17-km ruff ride

Animal welfare authorities in Rhode Island say this dog survived a 17-kilometre ride — at speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour — after it was hit by a car and became wedged under its front grill. East Providence Animal Control supervisor William Muggle says the dog ran in front of the car in Massachusetts on Sept. 20. The driver slammed on the brakes, but didn't see the dog and continued driving. Muggle tells the Taunton Daily Gazette that another motorist finally pointed out the dog.

EAST PROVIDENCE ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dog days

Dog survives ride in sweltering heat

A dog has survived a 177-kilometre ride on the hot engine of a truck during a California heat wave. When Jaime Magalna, 52, noticed fur above his left front tire, he opened the hood to find a 25-pound dog atop the engine. The hunt is on for the dog's owner.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frostbitten

Veteran seeks $10M after penis amputation

A U.S. army veteran is seeking $10 million from the federal government, saying a nurse repeatedly put ice packs on his penis after surgery, causing frostbite and gangrene, and ultimately leading to the organ's partial amputation.

Michael D. Nash sued the federal government in U.S. District Court in Kentucky on Tuesday for what he calls medical malpractice.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hormonal Breakouts?
Not Just a Teenage Problem!

Hormonal breakouts, such as acne that is marked by pimples, whiteheads, blackheads and cysts affect many teenagers today. But teenagers are not the only ones; acne can strike adults too - more than half of all adult women and about a quarter of adult men.

As the largest organ in the body, the skin is one of the best indicators of how healthy we are on the inside. Acne can have many underlying causes including: poor digestion and dietary intake (vitamin and mineral deficiencies), food allergies, hormonal imbalances, and stress.

Many women will typically see hormonal breakouts during their menstrual cycle due to hormonal fluctuations. Estrogen dominance due to hormone replacement therapy, the birth control pill, xenoestrogens from the environment (BPA, phthalates, parabens) or a sluggish liver can also contribute to hormonal breakouts.

EstroSense is a unique natural formula that helps maintain healthy hormone balance by supporting the liver and in turn, healthy skin. It combines key ingredients such as calcium-d-glucarate, indole-3-carbinol, sulforaphane, milk thistle and DIM for promoting liver detoxification of "bad" estrogens and excretion of harmful xenoestrogens. EstroSense also provides Tumeric, Lycopene, Rosemary and Green tea for powerful antioxidant support.

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CUSTOMER SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR VALIDATION

A kiss to build a dream on? Justin Trudeau and wife Sophie Grégoire, after he announced he's running for the leadership of the federal Liberal party. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He's their man: A Montreal crowd welcomes Trudeau and Grégoire Tuesday night. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steven Page reveals the barenaked bipolar facts

GRAHAM LANKTREE
Metro in Ottawa

Steven Page, former front man of the Barenaked Ladies, shared his struggles with bipolar disorder and depression on Tuesday.

He was helping to launch two new mental-health tools at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

"In 2007 when I was arrested for drug possession ... it was painful to pick up a national newspaper and see my mug shot," Page said.

Steven Page says having good friends is key to coping. JAMIE SABAU/GETTY IMAGES FILE

"I hadn't taken care of my inner struggles."

Page spoke at the launch of Starting the Conversation and iCopeU, two tools the college has created to help students and staff cope with mental-health issues.

ICopeU uses interactive games to teach students how to identify a panic attack and reach out to friends they think may be suicidal.

Starting the Conversation is an online tool for staff to help identify students who may be suffering.

Being an artist makes it easier for him to talk about his struggles, Page said. "People in the business world can't come out and talk about it."

That 'secret' is out: Justin is running

A new Trudeau era?
'Rock star' candidate tells crowd he's determined to build 'a better life, a better Canada'

Justin Trudeau is off and running.

He revealed the worst-kept secret in Canadian politics on Tuesday — he's in the federal Liberal leadership race.

"I am running because I believe this country wants and needs new leadership," the telegenic, raven-haired son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau told a cheering Montreal crowd.

But the young Trudeau faces a double-edged challenge:

He's determined to breathe new life into a party he said has lost touch with middle-class Canadians.

Even harder, he must confront those critics who say he's just a pretty face with a famous last name.

The 40-year-old MP told a crowd peppered with Liberal luminaries that he has a vision for Canada's future "grounded not in the politics of envy or mistrust." That vision, he declared, "understands, despite all the blessings beneath our feet, that our greatest strength is above ground, in our people.

"All Canadians, pulling together, determined to build a better life, a better Canada."

But as the middle class in China, India, South Korea and Brazil enjoys increasing prosperity, Canadians are experiencing the opposite, he said — stalled income levels, escalating costs and debt.

"What's the response from the NDP? To sow regional resentment and blame the successful.

"The Conservative answer? Privilege one sector over others and promise that wealth will trickle down, eventually."

Both are "tidy ideological answers," he said. "The only thing they have in common is that they are both, equally, wrong."

He also reached out to Quebecers, promising them a party that "promotes and cherishes the francophone reality of this country."

On Wednesday, Trudeau embarks on a cross-Canada tour designed to prove he's more than just his famous father's telegenic offspring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lineage

Following in his dad's footsteps

Justin Trudeau has been in the public eye since he was born on Christmas Day, 1971.

As a child, he travelled the country and the world with his famous father, then prime minister.

He was a school teacher before jumping into politics in 2008.

He eschewed offers to run in Outremont riding — now held by NDP Leader Tom Mulcair — choosing instead to fight in Papineau, once a Bloc Québécois stronghold and among the poorest ridings in the country.

He defeated a star Bloquiste in 2008 and bucked the NDP tide that swept Quebec in 2011.

In Liberal circles, he is an undisputed rock star. He boasts more than 150,000 followers on Twitter.

He said he chose to make his leadership bid Tuesday because it would have been the 37th birthday of his brother Michel, a skier who was killed in an avalanche in 1998.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I think Justin has a lot to offer the country."

Gerard Kennedy, who himself is still pondering whether he'll take a second run at becoming federal Liberal leader.

Women disappointed

Court's new man is a gender jolt

Justice Richard Wagner of the Quebec Court of Appeal was lauded Tuesday as a worthy addition to the Supreme Court of Canada, with one reservation in some quarters — he's not a woman.

Wagner's appointment Tuesday reduced to three the number of women on the nine-member court.

NDP justice critic Francoise Boivin was disappointed a woman was not tapped. And Queen's University law professor Kathleen Lahey said: "This is the 21st century."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Meter misery. No breaks for drivers ... and no brakes on parking costs

Gas prices aren't the only thing putting a squeeze on drivers' finances.

A new survey suggests Canadian drivers are pumping more cash into parking meters this year as parking rates continue to climb in major cities.

The Colliers International annual parking survey says the average median rate for a monthly unreserved spot is now $241.72 per month, up from $235.33 in 2011.

Calgary is Canada's most expensive city to park in for the second year in a row, with the average parking rate rising two per cent to $456.75.

That rate is second in North America only to parking in New York City.

Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton are also in the top 10 most expensive cities for parking in North America.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

2.7%

How much the average median rate for a monthly unreserved parking spot grew over the past year.

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Coffins are now political swag

In some countries political campaigns give out bumper stickers and yard signs. In others, they offer free lunches and supermarket debit cards. In Honduras, one of Latin America's poorest countries and also its most dangerous, candidates dole out another kind of political swag: Coffins for the destitute.

Charities organized by politicians scour poor neighbourhoods in search of families of murder victims who cannot afford funeral services or even a simple casket to bury their beloved.

The murder rate has more than doubled over the last six years due largely to an explosion in drug trafficking to the United States.

Without a coffin, morgues are prohibited from releasing a body and instead bury the dead in mass graves. For the grieving family too poor to purchase a casket, that means not just the loss of their loved ones, but no way to honour them either.

That's where the charities come in — three, to be exact, which offer free coffins, and sometimes transportation and refreshments for the bereaved. The charities are run by three elected officials, two of whom are seeking the presidency next year and a third who is running for mayor of Tegucigalpa. All are members of President Porfirio Lobo's ruling National Party.

Charity employees wait for customers at the offices of the Funeraria del Pueblo, or People's Mortuary, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

One charity, Helping Hand Up, won its congressional funding thanks to the head of the Honduran Congress, Juan Orlando Hernandez, who is running for president. Like the others, Helping Hand Up insists it is not trading coffins for votes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Having a whale of a time

Olympic College art students Justine McNeal, left, and Max Greene weave plastic bags into a mesh frame to create an 18-foot baby grey whale on Monday. The Whale Project opens at the Washington State school on Thursday and runs the entire month of October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Road-rage cabbie jailed

A judge sentenced a former Toronto cab driver Tuesday to two years less a day in jail for mangling the leg of a cyclist during a late-night road-rage dispute.

Earlier this year, Justice John McMahon found Sultan Ahmed showed a "wanton or reckless disregard" for the safety and life of the cyclist as he convicted him of criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

The Ontario Superior Court judge also found Ahmed guilty of failing to remain at an accident after hitting cyclist Krzysztof (Chris) Kasztelewicz.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Katherine Munkley's sponsorship of Angelique, 10, means that the child can stay in school, that she and her sisters receive medical insurance and that they can "dream big."

CHANGING LIVES

Lots of moms festoon their refrigerator doors with photos of their kids.

But seven of the grinning children whose pictures greet you in Katherine Munkley's kitchen are a long way from her Clarkson, Ont., home. Kinfe, age 9, for example, lives in Ethiopia. There is Antoine, 10, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kashoka, also 10, from Zambia.

All seven are children Munkley sponsors through World Vision Canada. And it makes sense that she likes to be able to say hello to them (virtually, anyway) every morning, because Munkley is the kind of person who has to see things for herself.

In 2000, the Oakville, Ont., nurse/counsellor and mother of three attended a speech by Stephen Lewis, who founded The Stephen Lewis Foundation, to address the enormous HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa. Munkley was galvanized: "I thought, 'Why aren't we doing more?'"

Munkley looked into a number of groups fighting AIDS in Africa, even travelling with one to Tanzania in 2007. None were what she was looking for.

Then, in 2009, she went to Rwanda with a World Vision Canada program called Destination Life Change, in which Canadians volunteer for two weeks on a project.

"I went with a critical eye," she says, "and was completely blown away. World Vision had moved far beyond schooling and providing food: They were really giving children a greater chance at life and at the future."

Munkley has visited two of "her" children in person — Christerbel, 4, in Zambia, and Angelique, 10, in Rwanda. Her opportunity to meet Angelique came on another Destination Life Change trip, to Rwanda in 2009. "It was 15 years after the genocide, and World Vision was heavily involved in reconciliation and forgiveness. It is creating peace as well as helping in redevelopment."

Munkley encourages anyone who wants to support a relief agency to take the same approach she did: Research, read, compare. "See what organizations do, what's a good fit for you. Find out where your dollar goes."

In World Vision Canada's case, 81.1 per cent of all donations go directly to projects. "It's a terrific humanitarian organization," she says, "that is changing lives for the better every day. And it costs so little to be part of that transformation."

She knows; she has seen it.

E. coli cases. Saskatchewan checks possible link to recall

Saskatchewan is reporting a spike in E. coli cases but is waiting for lab tests before linking them to the massive beef recall from an Alberta plant.

The Ministry of Health announced Tuesday there were 13 reported cases of E. coli infection in the province last month. The usual number for September is between zero and four. "Public-health authorities are investigating these cases and conducting tests to determine whether they are linked to the recall," reads a government release. "Laboratory results are expected within the next few days."

Health officials in Alberta on Tuesday confirmed two new cases, bringing the province's total to 10. Five of these cases have been linked to steaks that were processed at the XL Foods Inc. plant in southern Alberta.

Late Monday, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency added dozens of additional products to the recall. The entire list can be found at inspection.gc.ca.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Most valuable brands

BlackBerry sinks to No. 93 in global brand ranking

The BlackBerry brand that once dominated the smartphone landscape has plummeted nearly to the bottom of the latest ranking of global brands by an international consultancy. Interbrand said that Research In Motion's BlackBerry is now 93rd on its list of 100 most valuable global brands, down from 56th in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.60¢ (-0.16¢)

TSX 12,391.23 (+21.04)

OIL $91.89 US (-$0.59)

GOLD $1,775.60 US (-$7.70)

Natural gas: $3.52 (+0.04¢)
Dow Jones: 13,482.36 (-32.75)

Fish-tracking website looks to expand beyond Canada

Sustainability. Tracing service lets consumers find out who caught their dinner and how

An employee holds fish tags at Ecotrust Canada in downtown Vancouver on Friday. A Canadian website that allows consumers to trace the fish they buy back to the people who caught them is preparing for a larger, global presence.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Developers of a small Canadian website that has allowed consumers to trace hundreds of thousands of fish back to those who caught them are gearing up for a global presence.

Ecotrust Canada is in talks with East Coast mussel farmers and West Coast Dungeness crab fishermen to add their products to the online traceability program offered by thisfish.info, says Tasha Sutcliffe, vice-president of the non-profit organization and director of its fisheries program.

Sutcliffe said her organization has also met with interested non-governmental organizations, fishermen and restaurants in Australia and has received inquiries from Portugal, Costa Rica and the U.S.

Already, the website, which launched in 2010, allows consumers to trace 16 different fisheries back to hundreds of Canadian fishermen employed on both coasts, she says.

"With the seafood industry, you know, some people care very much about the sustainability of their catch," she said. "They want to know that it's caught from a sustainable fishery, how it's caught, perhaps even if they're interested enough ... in the stock status."

The program requires the participation of every agency in the distribution chain, from the fishermen to the consumer. Fishermen assign a code to their catch and upload that information to the website, including details about where, when and how the fish were caught.

The code then follows the fish as they move through the processing and distribution chain. To learn about their fish, consumers just enter the code into the website. So far, consumers have traced more than 362,500 fish. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"There's more and more requirements by consumers to know exactly where their fish comes from.... They really want to know what kind of fishery it is."

Dan Edwards, a commercial fisherman from Ucluelet, B.C., who has been involved in the Thisfish program since 2007.

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HAIL STORM JUSTIN TRUDEAU? WIND CHILL GARY BETTMAN?

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Winter is coming.

And that's not just the tag line for Season 3 of Game of Thrones.

It's really coming, in a meteorological, as well as mythological sense.

Only now, winter will never be the same. In the U.S., The Weather Channel (TWC) has unilaterally declared it will start naming winter storms the way the National Hurricane Center names tropical storms.

What's in a storm name?

"... I'm actually looking forward to the change in seasons for the first time since a snow day actually meant I could stay home and watch cartoons."

Instead of alternating male names with female names, TWC will name winter storms after mythological figures, starting with Athena, Brutus and Caesar. Too bad it's alphabetical, because if Brutus could follow Caesar, weather nerds could amuse themselves by arching their eyebrows and declaring "Et tu, Brute" ad nauseam. (Excuse the Latin blizzard).

This is a real marketing breakthrough for The Weather Channel, which in a single stroke has branded winter as a TWC event. As it has a 76 per cent share of the weather nerd market, everyone else will have to follow TWC's lead, which is annoying competitor Accuweather. "We are concerned," Accuweather commented, "about the lack of strict criteria with naming winter storms." They are not amused.

Well, I guess. They just lost winter. But if I were Accuweather, I wouldn't waste any more time being a sore loser and get right on spring and fall. Think of the possibilities: Ice Jam Snoop Lion, Windstorm Rex Murphy, First Frost (Name of local Homecoming Queen goes here).

Now that TWC has turned winter weather into a name-calling event, I'm actually looking forward to the change in seasons for the first time since a snow day actually meant I could stay home and watch cartoons.

I could probably still stay home and watch cartoons and no one would care. But I would. I would care.

But people with critical jobs, such as TV weather personalities, will now be able to phone in, blame the wrath of Khan or a spell cast by Gandalf, and turn over and go back to sleep.

As far as I can tell, anything goes on the mythology front. Italian stallions like Rocky take their place next to Greek gods Athena and Zeus, although it would be better if Rocky referred to Rocket J. Squirrel (speaking of the cartoons of my misspent youth) which means we could look forward to Winter Storm Bullwinkle, but that's almost too much to hope for. I can only remind the people at TWC that Rocky and Bullwinkle did come from Frostbite Falls, Minnesota. Winter lives there for sure.

The best part is that we can finally play along here in Canada. Blizzards are as commonplace as hurricanes are scarce north of the 49th. We could have a different fun weather event almost every day, although there's a real danger we'll hit Zeus in mid-February, where in parts of this godforsaken tundra, winter's just getting started.

In that case, we can always tap into our local mythology and name the next one Winter Storm Sidney Crosby? Because apart from winter, he represents the other thing we're good at.

Whaddya gonna call that one, son? NATHAN DENETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Time for a swim? Or a quick bite?

KATHLEEN REEDER/SOLENT

Animal instincts

Tiger hunts down handler into pool

This brave zookeeper took a real leap of faith ... into a swimming pool with a formidable tiger.

Animal handler Jeff Harwell, 30, dove into the water with a 204-kilogram Bengal tiger named Akasha in close pursuit.

The dynamic duo are the main event of a stunt show at Arizona's Out of Africa Wildlife Park.

METRO

Animal handler's view

"We're just playing, having a good time. All I see is her eyes and how intense they are, and she's trying to figure out what move I'm going to make that will make her spring."

Jeff Harwell

Reaction to photo

Critic condemns 'shocking' image

But this stunt is not without its critics.

"It's truly shocking," Adam Roberts, executive vice-president of animal rights group Born Free USA, told Metro.

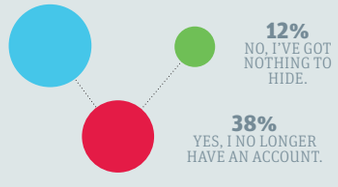
"It sends out a terrible message, that wild animals can be kept in close proximity with humans." He added: "This could easily end up in tragedy, with someone getting killed by a tiger." METRO

Jeff Harwell with Akasha.
CONTRIBUTED

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you concerned about your privacy on Facebook?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12%
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@WhitecapsFC:
"The mullet stays until we get enough points." RT to show your support for @D6MERIT get-to-playoffs mullet #JayDeMullet pic.twitter.com/Nb2x1vkw

@CityHallWchVAN:
Clr Ball asks how "thin streets" will boost affordability? McClellan says "maybe" -- cheaper land, and more units on same land. #vanpoli

@michaelgeller:
Cllr Ball's questions demonstrate great deal of public misunderstanding re Task Force recommendations. "Will I have to knock down my house?"

@ChristieBuono:
RT @BCLionsDen Big question u need to ask urself is "Do I have tickets for Sat's #BCLions game yet?" If not.get on it! #Feast4First #CFL

metro

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Liam Neeson gets big bucks these days with roles like in Taken 2, but prior to killing bad guys, he showed a softer side. HANDOUT

Neeson has a particular set of skills that aren't violent

Taken 2. Before he was fighting wolves and hunting bad guys, the Irish actor played a number of roles that showcased his nice-guy personality

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In this weekend's Taken 2, Liam Neeson tells his daughter that he will do, "what I do best," which, apparently, is wallop bad guys, grimace and leave a trail of destruction a mile wide. He plays a retired CIA agent with a "particular set of skills" who will do anything to protect his family.

Neeson's habit of paying the rent with chest-beaters like Battleship, Unknown and The A-Team led one macho movie fan to post on Facebook some conclusions.

"After watching the movie The Grey, I can only come to the (very logical) conclusion that Liam Neeson should be King of the Earth. Who's better than Liam Neeson? Nobody. That's who. Nobody."

His burly build and steely glare have made the 60-year-old an action star.

"Believe it or not, I have even had Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis calling my agent saying, 'How do I get these scripts?,'" he said.

Quote

There was a time when a kinder, gentler (Liam) Neeson ruled the screen.

But there was a time when a kinder, gentler Neeson ruled the screen.

His first film, 1977s Pilgrim's Progress, was so low budget he played several characters. He's credited as the Evangelist, a main character in John Bunyan's Christian allegory, but can also be seen subbing in as the crucified Jesus Christ.

It was another supporting role in a movie called Shining Through that led to his breakthrough. In it he plays a Nazi party official opposite Michael Douglas. The performance so impressed Steven Spielberg he cast Neeson as Oskar Schindler in Schindler's List, which turned him into an Oscar-nominated star.

He parlayed that fame into starring roles in period pieces like Rob Roy, Michael Collins (at the age of 43 Neeson was 12 years older than the real-life Michael Collins when he died) and Les Misérables. Then comedies Breakfast on Pluto and High Spirits also showcased his more amiable side.

High on the list of his mild-mannered roles are two films with Laura Linney. He's worked with her so often on stage and in the movies they joke they feel like "an old married couple." They're part of the ensemble cast of Love Actually and play husband and wife in Kinsey, about America's leading sexologist Alfred Kinsey.

Neeson, as we can see, can portray almost anything on screen, but even he was surprised by the success of Taken, his first action hit.

"I was a tiny bit embarrassed by it, but then people started sending me action scripts."

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SCENE

On the web

Norah O'Donnell tries to make the most of her mornings on CBS

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

FLICKR/CREATIVE COMMONS/MATT SHARPE

5 FABULOUS CITIES TO VISIT

Take a walk on the wild side … in these five amazing cities.

DISCOVER: MUSIC SCENE IN MONTREAL

Whether you are into French hip hop, dance clubs or live indie rock, Montreal after dark is the place to be. Head over to SAT, a slick warehouse and new media space for DJs and performance artists, Le Social, a bohemian hangout in a 19th-century mansion, or La Sala Rossa, a performance hall for touring bands. And check the paper because depending on where you are in the city, entire blocks are often closed to traffic for free concerts. Find your peeps, settle in — and let loose!

HEIGHTENED EXPERIENCE: NIGHTLIFE IN BERLIN

Berlin's nightlife is filled with wild abandon and contagious energy … people are jammed into cafés and underground bars that are spinning tunes and fun well beyond dawn. What makes it especially electrifying is all of this is happening amidst historical remnants (the German capital staged a revolution, was headquartered by Fascists and bombed to bits in the 20th century). All you have to do is surrender to the blissed-out haze of beats and booze …

DRAMATIC: BONDI BEACH IN SYDNEY

Sydney, Australia, is a maze of sandstone headlands, lazy bays — and legendary surf beaches. The most famous is Bondi Beach, which is just several kilometres from the city centre. Dunk yourself into the consistently great foaming swells for a rough-and-tumble swim (the average water temperature is 21 C). The beach is always swarming, there's lots happening in street cafés, and there are also salt-water sea baths at either end of the beach.

PUSHING BOUNDARIES: EDGY CAMDEN TOWN IN LONDON

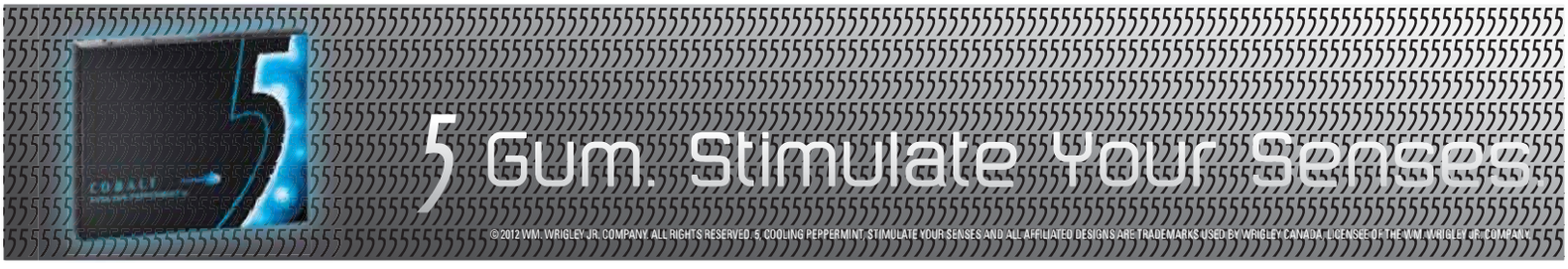
Camden Town is where it's happening in London, England. This area has been the centre of alternative culture since the '60s, and today it's a grungy paradise for Goths, punks and everyone in between. Check out the world-famous Camden Market for one-off clothing finds as well as lots of food stalls from around the world. Camden Town is also home to Abbey Road Studios and a slew of music venues and shops that reflect London's amazing musical history.

STIMULATE: DAKHLA, MOROCCO

One of the most exotic places to feel the power of the wind as it propels you across the water on a kite board is Dakhla. This western Sahara Desert town is one of the world's greatest wind — and kite-board surfing destinations! It's located on a narrow 48-kilometre long peninsula that stretches into the Atlantic Ocean and creates a huge lagoon. It's in that sandy lagoon where beginners and pros celebrate constant winds all year, flat water, great weather and lots of space. Grab your boards and go.

DAVID DE LOSSY/PHOTODISC/THINKSTOCK

FLICKR/CREATIVE COMMONS/MICHAEL ZIMMER



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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Kardashian and Lopez to be hosts of X Factor

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Ryan Seacrest is getting a little competition as host of a reality TV singing show: It was kind of announced yesterday (through TMZ; no official announcement has been made as of press time) that Khloe Kardashian and Mario Lopez will be the new co-hosts of The X Factor.

Earlier reports had Kardashian as the sole host but because of her contract with E!, there was a lot of back-and-forth; they kept Lopez on the sidelines as a back-up. But now it looks like they will share the duties together.

Good on Kardashian for distancing herself from the Kardashian cabal (heads up: Don't be surprised if you see Kardashian Kabal being used as the name of their new Home line for Sears) but Mario Lopez? How does this guy continue to have a showbiz career when Kelly Kapowski does not?

Curry back on Today?

Meanwhile, over at The Today Show, producers are doing a huge mea culpa about firing co-anchor Ann Curry and doing the unthinkable: they are going to have her back on the show on a routine basis in order to keep the morning show's ratings from sliding any further.

Robert Pattinson

Don't worry, Robert. You're still the sexiest man alive

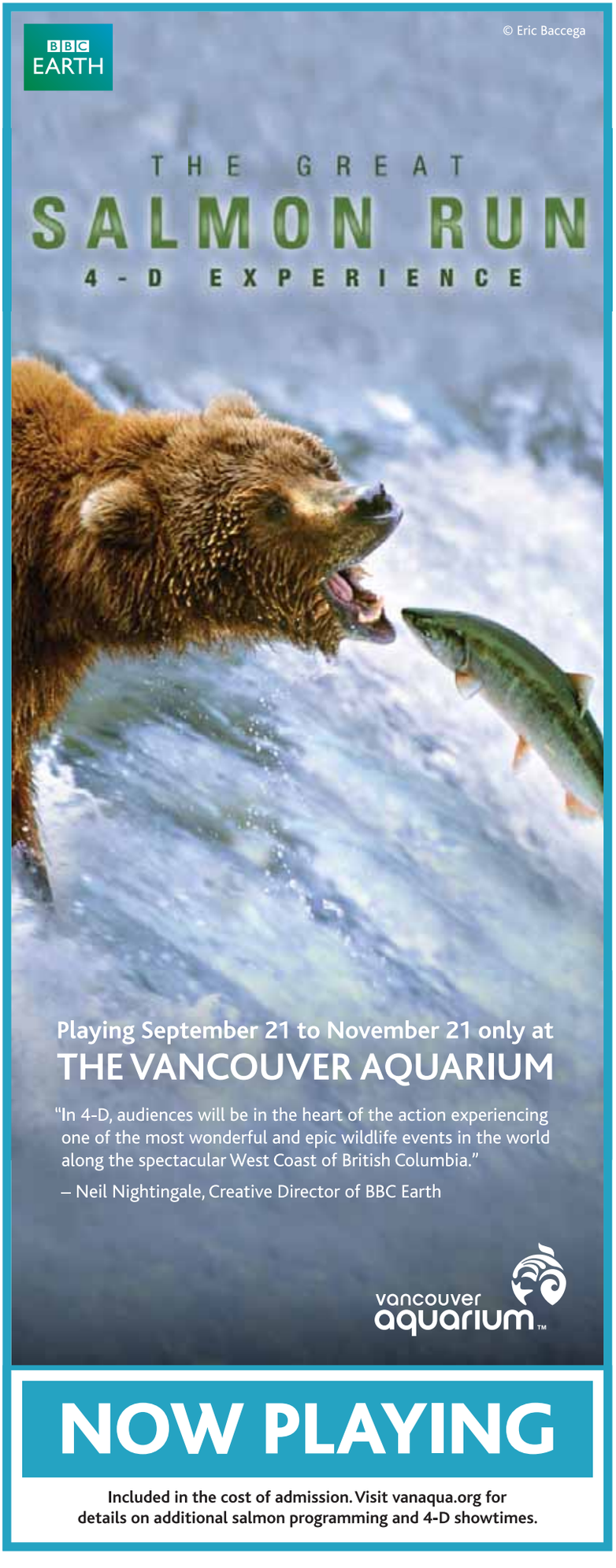
Maybe this will help take his mind off the whole Kristen Stewart cheating scandal thing: Twilight star Robert Pattinson has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by Glamour U.K. for the fourth year in a row. The Brit-heavy list awarded Avengers star Tom Hiddleston the No. 2 spot, while Johnny Depp, Michael Fassbender and Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch rounded out the top five.

Kopelman and Barrymore

Suck it up: Tasty baby names are still in vogue

Drew Barrymore is a new mom, giving birth to baby girl Olive last week, according to a statement by her reps.

"We are proud to announce the birth of our daughter, Olive Barrymore Kopelman, born Sept. 26, healthy, happy and welcomed by the whole family," The statement reads. "Thank you for respecting our privacy during this most special time in our lives." This is the first child for Barrymore and husband Will Kopelman, who tied the knot in June.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Huatulco	from $585 incl $245 base+ $340 taxes & fees

Airfares

Las Vegas
from **$187***
incl $120 base + $67 taxes & fees

Los Angeles	from $302 incl $198 base + $104 taxes & fees
Phoenix	from $406 incl $278 base + $128 taxes & fees
Chicago	from $422 incl $298 base + $124 taxes & fees
Miami	from $482 incl $358 base + $124 taxes & fees
Toronto	from $587 incl $418 base + $169 taxes & fees
London	from $794 incl $219 base + $575 taxes & fees
Manila	from $969 incl $697 base + $272 taxes & fees
Bangkok	from $1099 incl $662 base + $437 taxes & fees
Auckland	from $1269 incl $1089 base + $180 taxes & fees

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Varadero 6 Nights 4-Star	from $841 incl $555 base + $286 taxes & fees
Los Cabos 7 Nights 4-Star	from $866 incl $515 base + $351 taxes & fees
Mazatlan 7 Nights 5-Star	from $945 incl $605 base + $340 taxes & fees
Riviera Maya 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $1075 incl $735 base + $340 taxes & fees

Long Stay Vacations

Cancun Air + 22 Nights
from **$1549**
incl $1415 base + $134 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom at a beachfront resort in the heart of Cancun's hotel zone.

Fort Lauderdale Air + 21 Nights	from $1629 incl $1491 base + $138 taxes & fees

INCLUDES resort-style accom near Hollywood Beach.

Thailand Air + 20 Nights	from $1869 incl $1452 base + $417 taxes & fees

INCLUDES resort-style accom near Kata Beach in Phuket. **BONUS** daily breakfast included.

Surfer's Paradise Air + 19 Nights 4-Star	from $2249 incl $1996 base + $253 taxes & fees

INCLUDES 1-bedroom Chevron Island accom near the beach. **ADD** Brisbane airport transfer from $49 per direction.

Ski Vacation

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Christmas Holidays

Whistler
New Year's Eve, 2 Nights
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INCLUDES Village accom. Price per person.

Palm Springs Christmas Air + 3 Nights 4-Star	from $695 incl $549 base + $146 taxes & fees

INCLUDES downtown accom near attractions.

Las Vegas New Year's Eve Air + 4 Nights 4-Star	from $708 incl $577 base + $131 taxes & fees

INCLUDES 4-star accom on the Strip.

Puerto Vallarta Christmas Air + 7 Nights 4-Star All-inclusive	from $1283 incl $1159 base + $124 taxes & fees

INCLUDES 4-star all-inclusive accom.

London Christmas & New Year's Eve Air + 9 Nights	from $1687 incl $1109 base + $578 taxes & fees

INCLUDES Russell Square accom over both Christmas and New Year's Eve. **BONUS** daily breakfast included.

Riviera Maya Christmas Air + 7 Nights 4-Star All-inclusive	from $1725 incl $1385 base + $340 taxes & fees

INCLUDES 4-star all-inclusive accom.

Vacations

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Christmas Markets
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incl $1065 base + $634 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare into Munich, return from Vienna, 4 nights Munich accom, 3 nights Vienna accom, and rail from Germany to Austria.

Buenos Aires Air + 7 Nights 4-Star	from $1759 incl $1213 base + $546 taxes & fees

INCLUDES accom in the Recoleta district. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** tango show from $71.

Bali Air + 7 Nights	from $1834 incl $1439 base + $395 taxes & fees

INCLUDES accom on Kuta Beach. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** Waterbom Park admission from $36.

Dubai Air + 8 Nights	from $2079 incl $1477 base + $602 taxes & fees

INCLUDES apartment-style central accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** sundowner dune safari from $110.

USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
from **$199***
incl $132 base + $67 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $13 per night.

Tulalip Black Friday Shopping 1 Night	from $170 incl $154 base + $16 taxes & fees

INCLUDES resort-style accom near premium outlets.

Anaheim Family Special Air + 3 Nights	from $308◊ incl $184 base + $124 taxes & fees

INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4.

Palm Springs Air + 3 Nights 4-Star	from $453 incl $319 base + $134 taxes & fees

INCLUDES downtown accom near attractions.

New England Fall Colours Air + 5-Day Car	from $719 incl $583 base + $136 taxes & fees

INCLUDES roundtrip Boston airfare and 5-day car rental with unlimited mileage to explore the fall foliage of New England.

New Orleans Halloween Air + 4 Nights	from $868 incl $726 base + $142 taxes & fees

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INCLUDES beachfront resort-style accom in Key West.

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Looking for a place to unwind? Lonely Planet host Dominic Bonuccelli shares his favourite relaxation spots. Watch the new Lonely Planet series premiering Thursday at 10 p.m. ET/PT on Travel + Escape.

DOMINIC BONUCCELLI
life@metronews.ca

5 Places to bust the stress

SHAYAN/FLICKR

Death Valley, California

Sure, post-apocalyptic wastelands aren't everyone's cup of tea, but Death Valley gets my vote for the most mythic landscape in North America. It's the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere, full of Saharan sand dunes, endless fields of jagged salt crystal formations (the Devil's Golf Course), and vistas brooding enough for the U2 Joshua Tree album cover. Try meditating under the thick veil of silence, so intense you can hear the very hum of existence itself.

Cuba

Run to Cuba. Run there before the U.S. blockade ends and everything changes. Not that it shouldn't: the blockade is an anachronistic holdover from the Cold War that should go the way of the Dodo. But for now, Cuba remains frozen in 1958. Every pull-handle fridge, every '56 thunderbird with white-walled tires serving as a part-time taxi, every scrap of machinery heralds from the 1950s. The mojitos are the best you'll taste on the planet, swizzled with a stick of pure sugar cane, and you sip them while watching grandma and grandpa salsa dance on a street corner to live music at midnight. Run to Cuba, my friend.

COLROS/FLICKR

Banff, Alberta

Everyone knows Banff National Park has some of the best skiing and snowboarding, but I recommend hitting Lake Louise and the surrounding area in the summer blast. The Lake is blue, the colour of a child's imagination and home to the opulent Fairmont Chateau for those who relish the finer things. Summer allows you to rent a mountain bike and shred down miles of amazing alpine terrain with wildflowers and brain-melting views teeming with wildlife. Hit the Banff Upper Hot Springs on the way home to replenish your body.

SATORU KIKUCHI/FLICKR

ALOHAMAMMA/FLICKR

The Big Isle of Hawaii

You may have a more Robinson Crusoe experience on one of the more remote islands like Molokai or Lanai, but the big island of Hawaii will always be one of my favourite places on the planet. It hovers over a hole in the Earth's crust spouting magma, which makes it the youngest island and the one where you can (depending on the whimsy of Pele) watch lava drop into the ocean in pink-hazed fury under a full moon. If you want the pomp of a four-star experience you can linger on the dry side at the golf courses in Kailua-Kona, but I prefer the solace of the northern ranchlands near Waimea.

Copper Canyon, Sierra Madres, Mexico

I live just north of the Mexican border in Tucson, and I didn't even discover the Copper Canyon until three years ago. Shame on me. The drug war hasn't helped tourism much, but in reality tourists are very rarely targeted, and the adventurous travellers that venture in will be rewarded with a rustic wild-west train experience that crosses the Grand Canyon of Mexico on a daylong trip either direction between Los Mochis and Chihuahua. The Sierra Madres are breathtakingly gorgeous, and home to the Tarahumara Indians, the best long distance runners in the world and one of the most traditional and remote tribes in Mexico; a glimpse of their Easter celebration is an otherworldly experience.

BDEARTH/FLICKR

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Slow down and enjoy the view on a train ride through the wilds

Jasper. A 1,000-kilometre journey features stops in ski towns, boating spots and even some great shopping

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

In an era where you can jump on a jet and be halfway around the world in half a day, it's a refreshing change to wind back the clock and do some travelling old-school style.

Via Rail offers an incredibly scenic, relaxing train journey from the northern B.C. coast to Jasper, Alta., but don't expect to get anywhere fast.

This is how they moved in style back in the day, with great stretches of wilderness, lakes and rivers, punctuated by little railway towns.

I have to admit the hum of the train lulled me into more than one nap along the 1,000-kilometre route, but there is no shortage of interesting stops along the way either.

Towns like Terrace, Smithers and McBride are rich in native culture, and have that small-town feel you can't find anywhere else. I even found myself browsing through an impromptu town flea market during a whistle stop in Smithers.

The train itself is a bit dated, with a lounge car complete with 30-year-old magazines, and '70s-style decor. Overall though, touring class offers great dome cars to enjoy the view of the stunning Rocky Mountains at a relaxed pace.

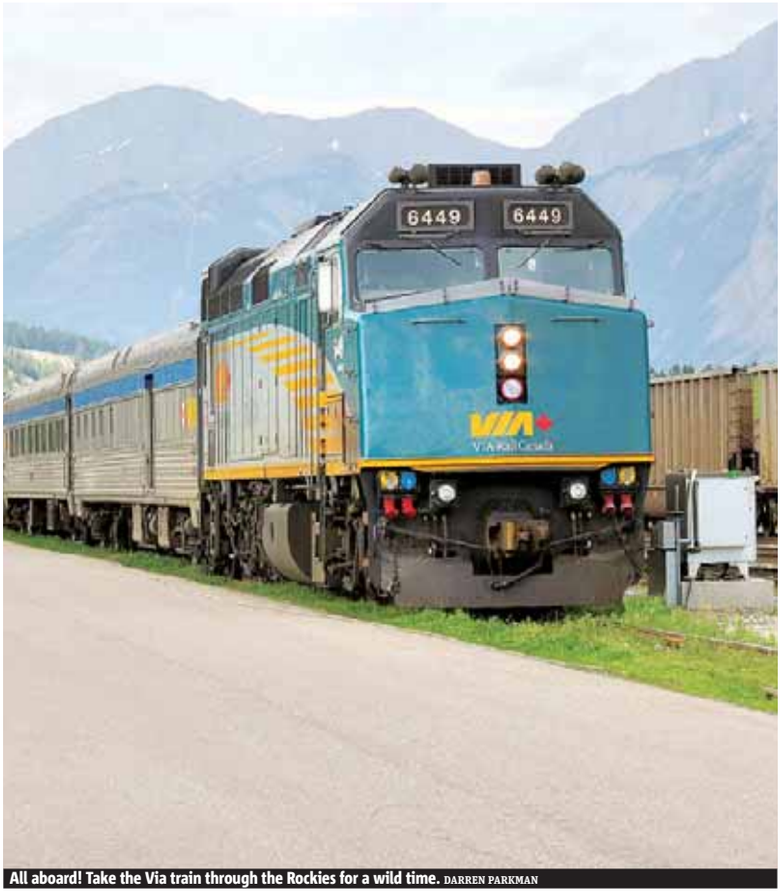
After an overnight stop in bustling Prince George, we were soon crossing the Alberta border, where passengers delighted in spotting a couple of lazy grizzly bears lounging in a track-side field.

Finally, the train chugged into peaceful Jasper, where the scenery is equally spectacular.

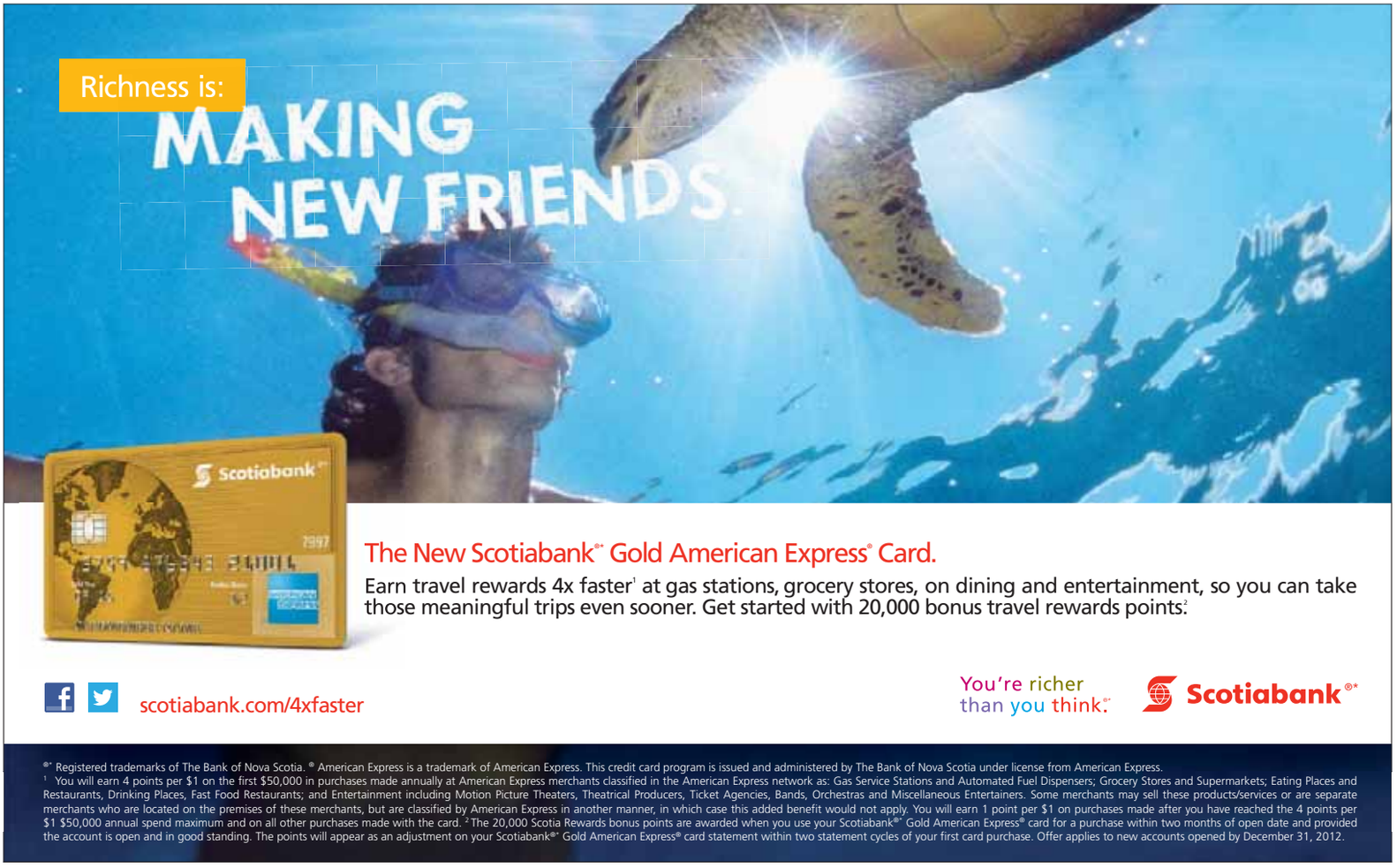
You couldn't find a better setting to wrap up a long rail ride. At the stunning Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, I found myself sipping a nightcap as a wild herd of giant elk slowly wandered the property, grazing just a few feet away from hotel guests.

Other cool things to do ...

- **Jetboating in Terrace.** Take a high-speed jet boat tour on the Skeena river. There's also great salmon fishing from spring through fall.
- **Ski Hundons Bay Mountain in Smithers.** Three great lifts with runs for the novice to the expert. Located just 20 minutes from downtown.



All aboard! Take the Via train through the Rockies for a wild time. DARREN PARKMAN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Not into pumpkin sweets? Try this updated version of Lemon Meringue

ROSE REISMAN
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rosereisman.com

This is a twist on a Lemon Meringue Pie — the filling has a creamier, custard-like texture. The meringue doesn't leak and holds its shape for at least two days in the fridge.

1. Preheat the oven 350 F. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie pan with cooking spray.

2. Crust: Combine crumbs, water and oil bowl. Pat into the sides and bottom of the pie pan.

3. Filling: Combine condensed milk, lemon zest, lemon juice and egg yolk. Let sit 10 mins. until thickened. Pour into pie pan and bake 20 mins. or just until the mixture is set.

4. Meanwhile, make the meringue. Combine egg whites, sugar, cream of tartar and water in a clean bowl. With electric beater, whip at the highest setting for about 8 mins. or until stiff peaks form. Spread over the lemon filling.

5. Increase the oven temperature to 375 F and bake for 10 minutes or until meringue is just lightly browned. Chill until cold and cut into 4 small slices. ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Nutritional analysis

Per serving (1 slice)

257 calories; 5.1 g protein; 45 g carbohydrates; 0.3 g fibre; 5 g total fat; 1.9 g saturated fat; 54 mg cholesterol; 87 mg sodium

Ingredients

Makes one nine-inch pie

Crust
- 1 1/2 cups vanilla wafer crumbs (made from 3 cups vanilla wafers)
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil

Filling
- 1 can (14 oz) + 2/3 cup low-fat sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tbsp lemon zest
- 1/2 cup lemon juice (freshly squeezed)
- 3 egg yolks (save the whites)

Meringue
- 3 egg whites
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/8 tsp cream of tartar
- 3 tbsp water

Lemon Meringue Custard Pie

This recipe serves four to six. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Orange, Banana and Cinnamon Slushie

For a sweet dessert in a cup, try this slushie drink with its tasty dash of cinnamon. It's the perfect mid-day snack.

- 3 cups lightly crushed ice
- 1 cup no-pulp orange juice
- 2 bananas
- 1/2 cup agave syrup or honey
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- Pinch salt

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Purée until smooth. You may need to stop the blender once or twice and stir the ingredients in order to keep them moving in the blender. Serve immediately. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crisp Blueberry Shortcakes: Messy goodness

1. Heat the oven to 400 F.

2. In a small bowl, combine 1 tablespoon of the sugar with the cinnamon.

3. Lay 1 phyllo sheet flat on a baking sheet, keeping the remaining phyllo sheets covered with plastic wrap and a damp kitchen towel. Spray the phyllo sheet lightly with the cooking spray, then sprinkle it with 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon-sugar mixture.

4. Layer a second sheet of phyllo over the first, coat it with cooking spray and sprinkle with another teaspoon of the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Repeat with the final sheet of phyllo.

5. Cut the stacked phyllo into 12 4-inch squares, leaving them on the baking sheet. Bake until crisp and golden brown, about 8 minutes. Transfer to a rack and let cool.

6. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan stir together the remaining 1/3 cup of sugar, the cornstarch and salt. Whisk in the water. Add 1/2 cup of the blueberries and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture comes to a full boil, the berries have popped, and the sauce has thickened. Remove from the heat and stir in the lemon juice and zest.

7. In a medium bowl, combine the thickened sauce with the remaining blueberries.

8. To serve, arrange 6 of the phyllo crisps on individual serving plates. Divide the blueberry mixture between them, spooning it over each. Top each with a second crisp. Serve topped with a spoonful of vanilla yogurt, if desired. They also can be sprinkled with powdered sugar or additional cinnamon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON OF THE SHOW SARA'S WEEKNIGHT MEALS AND AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Ingredients
- 1/3 cup plus 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 3 sheets phyllo dough, trimmed to 12-by-16 inches
- Cooking spray
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- Pinch table salt
- 1/3 cup water
- 2 cups fresh blueberries, divided
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 tbsp grated lemon zest
- Low-fat vanilla yogurt, to garnish, if desired

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AU student AnnMarie in Edmonton, AB

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Show me the money-related role

Take this advice to the bank. Making cents of an interview in financial services

ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

Sweaty palm syndrome can be solved by getting a handle on the job description. ISTOCK

Interviews can be scary. Between talking about your experience without talking too much, being easy-breezy but not too casual, and trying to hide your nervousness under your best business suit, there are many factors that can result in a good (or disastrous) job interview. In the financial services sector, like in many industries, the interview stage is when companies determine if you're a good fit for the job on a personal and professional level. We spoke with Nancy Moulday, manager of recruitment at TD Business Banking, to find out what sums up to a great interview in the financial services:

Know the job posting

"In preparing for the interview, it's important to take a look at those traits and behaviours that the interviewer and company are looking for," says Nancy. Therefore, she says, let the job listing be your guide when gearing up for the big day. When creating a job description, companies highlight the behaviours and skills that they're looking for in applicants. The key points outlined in the listing will give you a framework for answering some of the general questions (e.g., 'Describe your greatest success') and an opportunity to practice. Nancy adds that you should take care to not over prepare — interviewers aren't looking for the perfect answers word-for-word. Just be able to reflect back on your experiences and have examples that fit the job description at the ready.

Ask what to expect

Different jobs will require different styles of interviews. It is completely within the rights of the candidate to ask the interviewer what to expect from your interview, says Nancy. She says most companies are very up front about what form the meeting will take and are happy to share it with candidates to help them better prepare. In the financial services industry, it is particularly important to ask these questions in case testing will be involved, such as a financial statement analysis or business case review. Knowing what's involved in advance will ensure that you show up to the interview with the necessary tools (e.g., calculator, pens, etc.) and the necessary knowledge.

Bring a portfolio

Interviews are an opportunity for you to showcase how great you are, and it's important to have the paper to back it up. Nancy recommends that all candidates show up to their interviews with two copies of their resumé – one for their own review and one for the interviewer. She says you should also put together a binder or folder that contains the job listing, a cover letter, and any other documents that were specifically requested in the job description. Additional documents can include things such as proof of specific accreditation, reference letters and any previous work that you may be discussing during your interview.

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Much appreciated

Get in touch!

Like my mother loves to say: "Never underestimate the power of saying thank you." Follow up with employers after each interview to thank them for their time and briefly reiterate your interest and eligibility for the open position.

In the financial services world, new hires are often working with clients or customers and, therefore, Nancy says that this type of note reflects well on the courtesy and professionalism of candidates.

Student Voice

Employers, keep an equal eye out for arts students

Fionn Smyth
Graduate
Bachelor of Arts in Labour Studies and Theatre & Film
McMaster University

TalentEgg.ca

After graduating with no job I took the opportunity to participate in J'Explore and learn French in a semi-immersion environment. After that I spent about six weeks constantly applying to work in full- time entry level positions either in my field or that could get me somewhere I wanted to go.

Finally I got a job but soon found out that it was not for me. After that I took a full-time position at Starbucks as a barista and was soon promoted to supervisor, however I still feel that there is more I could be doing with my education. Don't get me wrong, my job pays my bills, but I'm looking for more than that.

My recommendations for employers, schools and career centres

I recommend that schools do more for their students in the arts. As someone who took a combined honours degree I found it nearly impossible to figure out which route to take or even how to pursue things that I wanted. While some arts students do get the attention that they deserve I often found that I had to do a lot more digging than my colleagues in engineering or sciences.

What I'm doing now

Right now I'm still at Starbucks as a supervisor. I had different ideas in mind for this time of my life. I'm just paying my bills and trying to get ahead. I'm still looking for something that will be more fulfilling on the whole and something that will let me use my education. I'm also applying to teacher's college for the fall of 2013 but with the job market the way it is there is still a long way to go.

My advice for students and recent grads

Don't give up hope. Keep on figuring out what you love to do and what uses your potential to the fullest. Don't be afraid to leave a job that you don't love and don't get too discouraged.

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Be sure that you've benefited fully from your current learning experience before you decide to seek out a higher work status. ISTOCK

If you're just starting out at your first entry-level or early-career job in financial services or accounting, you may not have given too much thought to your long-term career objectives. But if you aspire to a management position one day, you'll need to start planning now.

A recent survey developed by Robert Half Management Resources has found that fewer than one third of management positions in accounting and finance were filled by candidates who were promoted internally. So take in these tips to beat the odds.

Speak up

You may need to raise your voice in order to give yourself a good shot, particularly if you're being overlooked. "If you get a sense that others have been identified for roles and you're not getting tapped on the shoulder, it's appropriate to ask for feedback in terms of what skill sets you're lacking," says David King, Canadian president of Robert Half.

Improve yourself

If you notice that you're lacking a skill in demand among managers at your company, try to learn close to home. "Seeking professional development that's sponsored by your company would be ideal, and if it isn't, you may have to look for it on your own time," says David. In either case, make sure your supervisor is aware that you're dedicating your own time to broadening your skill set on your employer's behalf.

Advertise yourself

Performance reviews give you the opportunity to build on your employer's existing impression of you while emphasizing steps you've taken to put yourself in line for a move up the ladder.

"That ensures that they see you are, one, interested in and, two, capable of promotion," he says. Key among these steps is taking on special projects which demonstrate skills you don't use in your regular job.

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Move on or move up

When to pull the plug

- It's important to recognize that some employers won't be able to offer you advancement opportunities.
- Cover your bases before you decide a change is needed, says David. "Provided you've exhausted all opportunities at your current firm, it's appropriate to look into options elsewhere."

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Canada

Financial services: Not just for number nerds

This field has legs.
There are hundreds of possible career choices within the realms of banking, insurance and investment

JELEEN YU
TalentEgg.ca

There are many opportunities for face-to-face interactions in this dynamic and challenging field. ISTOCK

While pop culture may lead you to believe otherwise, bankers do more than just crunch numbers, create spreadsheets and appease Gordon Gekko-esque bosses. A job in financial services is not only dynamic and challenging, it also puts you at the very heart of money management. As one of the most significant contributors to Canada's economic growth, the financial services sector is home to more than half a million jobs and represents more than five percent of the country's GDP. The industry offers a variety of avenues for graduates from various academic disciplines, whether you love face-to-face interaction or prefer creating corporate success behind the scenes.

Not a numbers person? Not a problem.

The Architect: Financial Planner
Same job, different title: Financial adviser (with certification), financial analyst, financial consultant, financial manager.

Financial planners are financial architects. Their goal is to strengthen a client's fiscal foundation by looking at the big picture: evaluating key financial data, finding weaknesses in the structure, and recommending appropriate solutions depending on the specific circumstances of the individual or organization they're working with. Planners are highly valued for their aptitude in research and critical thinking, and their excellent communication skills come in handy when preparing assessment reports or explaining complex financial ideas to clients. Financial planners are often employed by banks, mutual and pension management companies, insurance companies, and securities firms, and many work independently as well.

The Agent: Relationship Manager or Agent/Broker
Same job, different title: Financial adviser (no certification), accounts representative.

If you love meeting people and nurturing strong working relationships, "client-facing" positions like these are often a good fit. Agents, brokers and relationship managers are the lifeblood of the financial services industry, and their work often determines the longevity and success of the organization they work for.

The main goal of financial product agents is to attract new prospects to the company, nurture the interactions it keeps with its current customers and persuade former clients to return.

Agents also regularly conduct trend analysis and submit service level reports to gauge their company's performance against industry standards.

Keys to succeed in these roles are strong interpersonal skills and an ability to communicate complex financial ideas or products in clear and simple terms.

The Proofreader: Claims Adjuster
Same job, different title: Claims analyst

While sales agents are tasked with finding and closing the deals, claims adjusters fulfil the equally important role of ensuring that the client's claims match the company's eligibility standards.

This involves evaluating submitted claims for accuracy, collecting any additional relevant material and even personally inspecting the evidence related to the claim.

Preparing documentation for denial or approval is also part of the job, as is working with data analyst software to track industry trends.

Training usually involves acquiring a certificate or degree in the field they intend to work in, which is supported by credentials in specific office procedures as well as billing and claims processing.

Though a degree in business, accounting, math or statistics may ease transition into the industry, graduates from different academic backgrounds possessing the necessary skills and traits have also experienced success as claims adjusters.

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FALL FUN

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Make sure to take the time to relax with your family this Thanksgiving long weekend and create your own treasured memories. ALTRENDO IMAGES/STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

Cornucopia of weekend activities

LEE ROMAN
For Metro

There's really no other holiday like Thanksgiving — the day that's synonymous with feasting on turkey, mashed potatoes and, of course, seasonal pie of the apple or pumpkin kind.

But food aside, Thanksgiving weekend is also the perfect time take in some other activities with family and friends. Here are a few ways to have fun, celebrate fall and create bountiful memories this long weekend.

1 Take in the fall colours: Plan a leisurely stroll around the neighbourhood to check out the changing leaves and splendid fall hues. Or load up the family in the car and take a drive to the nearest park, walking trail or conservation area. Make sure you take a camera along so you can do a fun fall photo shoot.

2 Go apple picking: Canada is ripe with farms to pick your own apples. A quick online search will provide a listing of local U-pick orchards. If you are taking children with you, make sure you choose a location that has dwarf trees for easy picking. Tip: When you find that perfect apple, don't yank the apples from the tree. Lift the apple upwards and give a sharp twist to prevent other apples from falling from the tree.

3 Bake something special together: Set a couple of hours aside to make Thanksgiving-themed cookies with family members or friends. You will find sprinkles, icing and a variety of different shaped cookie cutters, including pumpkins, maple leaves, turkeys and more in craft or kitchen stores. And remember that kids love to help, so use the opportunity to include them in the cookie cutting, baking and decorating.

4 Get spooked: Although Halloween is still a few weeks away, haunting season has already begun in many cities and towns. If you like a good scare, goblins, ghosts and other terrors of the night aren't usually too far away at this time of the year. Check out the Internet for scary activities, such as haunted hay rides and walking tours in your area.

5 Volunteer your time: Nothing reminds us more of how much we have to be thankful for than giving back to others in need. This weekend, why not consider helping out at a local food cupboard, volunteering at a homeless shelter or serving up Thanksgiving dinner at nearby food kitchen.

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Thanksgiving. Setting the scene

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Thanksgiving brings a whole new twist to entertaining — so how do you entertain family at this time of year?

Set the scene

Before you get to the cooking, there is the decorating. And why not get your kids involved in setting the Thanksgiving scene?

"The kids can collect coloured leaves and fill decorative apothecary jars or bowls to bring the outdoors in," suggests Janet Lee, the Brampton, Ont.-based fashion and product development director for Home Outfitters.

Setting a kids table this year? Karl Lohnes, Metro's Décor Moment's columnist, suggests opting for bright and practical when it comes to decorating the table — think a big paper tablecloth in a bright green or orange. "We're also seeing a lot more decorative, disposable stuff — so maybe a decorative plate and then a glass one on top of it can help to decorate," he adds.

"Even the Dollarama type stores have a lot of fall Thanksgiving disposables to use under a glass plate for a pattern."

What about the food?

Trish Magwood, author of In My Mother's Kitchen, sees a group of 21 family members every Thanksgiving and knows the holiday is about finding dishes that work for different generations.

"So my mom will do a turkey dinner for the adults, but then a smaller roast chicken for the kids who are eating sometimes at a different time," says Magwood.

"Or we'll have the same celebratory meal and different sides. We might be having oven-roasted cauliflower with brown butter sauce or a zucchini gratin that's got a heavy gruyere flavour, but the kids might be more inclined to have the mashed potatoes with peas. So it's different side options, yet you don't have to become a diner-like cook for everyone."

Magwood also suggests thinking beyond just the big dinner — traditional Thanksgiving weekends involve multiple dinners after all. "We always do the one big dinner, one barbecue dinner and one make ahead dinner," she says.

"So it's a controlled potluck figured out ahead of time."

Oktoberfest: Without the travel

Plan your own party. With German food and music you can create an authentic atmosphere

LEE ROMAN
For Metro

If you aren't into travelling to Munich to celebrate original Oktoberfest, there is an easier way. Plan your own backyard Oktoberfest party. The weather is still great for barbecuing and, you have to admit it, fall is just a great time to have a party — lederhosen or no lederhosen.

Make it an authentic German feast
Any Oktoberfest celebration worth going to starts with a menu of hearty German fare. Sausages, sauerkraut, potato dumplings, and schnitzel are just a few must-have dishes to serve to your company. Throw in an apple tart or strudel for desert and your guests will be nothing short of impressed. A good way to find the freshest food and get in the right mood for Oktoberfest is by shopping for ingredients at the local farmers' market or at fall fairs. Consider picking up a good German cookbook for some authentic menu recommendations. And don't forget one of the most important items of all — beer. When your guests ask "what can we bring," suggest that they surprise you with a choice of German lagers.

Create a willkommen atmosphere
Make the night come alive with light. You will find a good selection of colourful candles, lanterns and colourful indoor and outdoor lights at many craft stores, and home and garden centres. Stop by a travel agency and ask if it has some promotional posters for Germany, which you can pin up outside and around the house. Play some traditional oompah band music to get everyone in the Oktoberfest spirit. If the weather is nice, plan to eat outside — just like they do in Germany.

Set your table with style
Make your guests think they are in Bavaria, home to Oktoberfest, by decorating your table with splashes of cobalt blue and snow white, the official colours of Bavaria.

Or add place mats, runners and napkins in the bold colours of the German flag: Black, red, and gold. Create a centrepiece of dried flowers, wheat sheaths or Bavarian floral favourite — geraniums. If you want to make table setting easy, you can find Oktoberfest decorations, including cups, napkins and plates at party stores.

It's simple to serve up Oktoberfest close to home. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Finally, if you are wondering what to wear ...
If you think the cool, fall evenings are a little too chilly for lederhosen or Bavarian barmaid costumes, feel free to adapt your wardrobe accordingly. After all, a German alpine hat looks good on just about anyone.

SPORTS 4

Whitecaps attack missing the mark

MLS. Fighting for a playoff spot, Vancouver haunted by inability to convert scoring chances

It was the miss that could have made a big difference in the Vancouver Whitecaps' bid for a playoff spot.

Now, with three games to go in the Major League Soccer regular season, the Whitecaps (10-12-9) are hoping Brazilian striker Camilo — and others — will connect on their scoring chances more in Wednesday's contest against Chivas USA (7-16-7) at B.C. Place.

"It is a final for us," Camilo said after practice Tuesday. "We need to win this game, because we have Dallas very close. This game is very important for us."

Camilo missed what he called a "golden chance" in the dying seconds of Saturday's 0-0 home tie with the Seattle Sounders. Standing home-free at the near post, he took a pass from Kenny Miller — but fired wide of the far post. As a result, the Whitecaps maintained their precarious two-point lead over Dallas when they could have moved five up.

Camilo is expected to play an important role again, because top scorer Darren Mattocks is nursing a hamstring injury that forced him to leave Saturday's game in the first half. Although the Whitecaps posted back-to-back ties, they are winless in seven games and have scored only three goals in that span.

But Camilo, who has struggled this season after leading the team with 12 goals in 2011, is vowing not to let his miss get to him.

"That night, I was very sorry for the miss," he said. "But now, my focus is the next game. Soccer is like that. The game can change very fast. In this game, I'll try to score to help my team."

The 24-year-old, who prefers to play on the left wing but may be used in the middle Wednesday in a more traditional two-striker formation, has just four goals this season. He admitted he lost his confidence as a result of a quadriceps injury, but added he has worked hard to regain it.

The team's lack of scoring, he said, has mirrored his own.

"I didn't play well, but I didn't play bad," he said. "I didn't have the season I wanted to for the Whitecaps. But now it's time me and the Whitecaps to finish the season (well). We are very close to (making) the playoffs, and the playoffs is another championship."

His resurgence would be timely depending on how long Mattocks remains out.

After Saturday's game, Mattocks doubted he would play in this game. After Wednesday's contest, the Whitecaps do not play again until Oct. 21 against Portland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Camilo of the Vancouver Whitecaps appeals to the fans for noise during their MLS game against the Seattle Sounders on Saturday at B.C. Place. The teams played to a 0-0 tie. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"He's probably the best finisher on the club. He's got a lot of good movement, good trickery."

Whitecaps coach Martin Rennie on striker Camilo

MLB

Cabrera on the cusp of winning Triple Crown

Miguel Cabrera had two hits and drove in two runs before leaving in the fifth inning, and the Kansas City Royals rallied to beat his AL Central champion Detroit Tigers 4-2 Tuesday night.

With one game remaining in the regular season, Cabrera leads the American League in average (.331), home runs (44) and RBIs (139), putting him on the brink of becoming the first Triple Crown winner since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski in 1967. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miguel Cabrera smiles after hitting a two-run single in Kansas City, Mo., on Tuesday. ED ZURGA/GETTY IMAGES

Orioles shut out Rays to remain in race for AL East

Another one-run victory by the Baltimore Orioles pushed the AL East race to the final day of the season.

Chris Davis homered for the sixth straight game and the Orioles overcame a club-record 15 strikeouts by Tampa Bay pitcher James Shields to beat the Rays 1-0 Tuesday night.

Baltimore remains one game behind the first-place New York Yankees, who rallied behind the bat of Raul Ibanez to beat the Boston Red Sox 4-3. Ibanez hit a two-run homer in the ninth to force extra innings, and then ended the game by cashing in Francisco Cervelli with a single in the 12th. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talks stall as lockout bill climbs to $100M

The NHL lockout has already cost the league almost $100 million in lost revenue.

That figure will likely end up looking like chump change by the time the sport's latest labour dispute is settled.

Talks broke off quickly between the league and the NHL Players' Association on Tuesday morning and deputy commissioner Bill Daly emerged from the meeting saying he didn't have "any progress to report." For the first time, he also revealed the extent of the damage the lockout has inflicted so far — "close to" $100 million after the cancellation of the entire pre-season schedule.

"That is not going to be recouped and that's going to cost both sides," Daly told reporters in New York. "That's unfortunate but it's a reality of where we are."

The revelation didn't elicit much sympathy from the union. Executive director Donald Fehr pointed out the sides could have continued negotiating past the Sept. 15 expiry of the last agreement.

"If this is a loss, this is a loss that is entirely of their own making," Fehr told The Canadian Press in an interview. "They're the ones that did this; nobody told them to."

The $100 million lost so far represents approximately three per cent of the total amount of hockey-related revenue generated last season — essentially the pool of money the sides need to agree to split up.

The 17-day lockout hasn't yet resulted in the cancellation of any meaningful games. However, with the regular season scheduled to begin on Oct. 11, it's only a matter of time before that happens.

There are currently no other bargaining sessions planned. Fehr spoke with commissioner Gary Bettman by phone on Tuesday afternoon and is hopeful negotiations could resume in Toronto before the end of the week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We're still focused on doing what we can to minimize the damage."

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly on the looming cancellation of regular-season games.

Mobile sports

Qriket

Three-time Olympic medallist Silken Laumann is blasting Rowing Canada's decision to part ways with men's eights coach Mike Spracklen. No reasons were given, but Spracklen has had a fractious relationship with Rowing Canada for years.

Greenberg takes his cuts in his second plate appearance

MLB. Outfielder gets another shot in the show 7 years after being hit in the head with a 92-mph pitch

Adam Greenberg's second major-league plate appearance went a lot better than the first one, even though he struck out.

Returning to the big leagues seven years after he was beaned, Greenberg fanned on three pitches Tuesday night as a pinch-hitter for the Miami Marlins.

Greenberg signed a one-day contract before the game and batted leading off the sixth inning against New York Mets 20-game winner R.A. Dickey.

After Greenberg received a standing ovation from the modest crowd and his teammates, Dickey threw him three consecutive knuckleballs. Greenberg took the first for a strike, then swung at the next two and missed.

The game was Greenberg's first since his major-league debut with the Chicago Cubs in 2005, when he was hit in the back of the head by the first pitch he saw — a 92-mph fastball that derailed his career.

The 31-year-old Greenberg took part in batting practice and then watched the early innings from the bench.

By the fifth inning, Greenberg had a bat in his hands as he paced in the dugout. In the sixth, manager Ozzie Guillen sent him up to bat for outfielder Bryan Petersen.

He swung under an 80-mph knuckler for strike three, and the crowd groaned, then renewed its cheers as Greenberg walked back to the bench. He smiled as he received a hug and back slaps from Jose Reyes, high-fives from other teammates, and a whisper in the ear from Guillen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marlins beat Mets

Dickey fails in bid for 21st victory

New York Mets knuckleballer R.A. Dickey gave up two homers in his final start of a Cy Young-hopeful season and the Mets lost to the Miami Marlins in 11 innings 4-3 Tuesday.

Donovan Solano hit a game-winning, bases-loaded one-out single off Collin McHugh (0-4).

In his bid for his 21st victory, Dickey left after six innings trailing 3-0, but the Mets rallied with three runs in the eighth to tie the game. After Marlins rookie Jacob Turner allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings, former all-star Heath Bell helped blow their lead.

Adam Greenberg takes a swing on Tuesday in Miami. Greenberg signed a one-day contract with the Miami Marlins to make his first plate appearance since being hit in the head by a pitch in his major-league debut in 2005.

MARC SEROTA/GETTY IMAGES

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It's getting better all the time

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE MEDIA

Style

The latest Accord that's now on sale appears more svelte, with none of the excessive front overhang that marred the previous generation. The look is more proportionally balanced and shows greater attention to detail in terms of styling execution. The sedan is far more pleasing to the eye than past efforts. The coupe, on the other hand, already deemed a good looker, has undergone a more subtle transformation and remains one of the most appealing models of its type on the road.

2013 Honda Accord

- **Types.** Two- /four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size coupe/sedan.
- **Engines (hp).** 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (185-189); 3.5-litre SOHC V6 (278); 2.0-litre DOHC I4 with 124 kilowatt electric motor (196, net).
- **Safety.** Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $25,300.

Cabin

Good looking also describes the Accord's new cabin. The artistically sculpted dashboard is a sensational piece and thankfully devoid of knob and switchgear clutter. Drivers will be particularly enamored with the clear and crisp white-on-black center gauges and the high-definition eight-inch (20- centimetre) multi-information display screen. All passengers are treated to more comfortable seating arrangements.

Fuel consumption

In explaining its CVT decision, Honda's stewards deemed it necessary to lower fuel consumption to more competitive levels, as in 7.8 l/100 km city and 5.5 highway. Those numbers are second only to the class-leading Altima's 7.4/5.0 rating.

Performance

Accords remain admirable road performers, with an enhanced feeling of sportiness and ride control. The base 2.4-litre four-cylinder (labelled "Earth Dreams") makes 185 horsepower (189 for the Sport model), up from 177. The optional 278-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 gains a mere seven ponies. Manual-transmission lovers should be pleased that the six-speed gearbox remains available with four-cylinder Accord sedans and up-level V6 coupes.

Review. Although it's smaller, Accord keeps the optional V6 and fine-tunes pretty much everything else

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Buyers expecting the ninth-generation Accord to be bigger and bolder will need to adjust their perspective concerning one of North America's most successful sedan and coupe lines.

The U.S.-built (30 years and counting) Accord maintains a conservative presence, while undergoing a complete metamorphosis in style, features and running gear.

Paraphrasing Honda's styling director David Marek, the Accord's makeover started from the inside out to ensure that occupants were treated to as much room and style as possible. Reshaping the exterior included soliciting opinions from current Accord owners who made it clear they wanted a less bulky car that didn't sacrifice overall spaciousness.

Sounds like a tall order, but Marek's design team appear to have delivered on virtually all counts. The 2013 Accord sedan is about nine centimetres shorter and loses about 2.5 centimetres between the front and rear wheels while gaining a centimetre in width. At the same time, trunk space has increased by five per cent, thanks in part to a more compact rear suspension.

In early 2013, Honda will introduce the Accord plug-in hybrid. In this format, a 2.0-litre four-cylinder is mated with a 124-kilowatt electric motor to produce 196 net horsepower. The plug-in travels up to 24 kilometres on electric-only power, can run on grid juice at speeds up to 100 km/h and has a maximum 700-kilometre range.

The clincher is it takes three hours — a relatively short time — on standard 120-volt house current to replenish the lithium-ion battery (about 10 minutes for a 50-percent charge), or about an hour using a 240-volt charger.

Honda plans to introduce a non-plug-in hybrid by mid-2013, giving the Accord a one-two punch in the eco-sedan category.

A new Sport model adds bigger wheels, paddle shifters for the CVT and small deck spoiler. The beauty is that you don't need to buy the V6 to get the goodies.

The Accord has never been about the "wow factor", but more the "smart factor." As such — despite the smaller overall package — there's actually more interior volume.

By comparison

1 Ford Fusion
Base price: $23,000.
New design will get attention. V6 replaced by EcoBoost turbofour-cylinder.

2 Nissan Altima
Base price: $25,300
Fuel-economy champ is new for 2013; CVT is the only transmission choice.

3 Chevrolet Malibu
Base price: $26,500.
Handsome sedan cuts the flab, replaces V6 for partial hybrid option.

5 DRIVE

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news.

The art of parts chasing in style

Autoknow. New York City and parts chasing ... sounds like the perfect mini vacation wrapped up into a work trip

JOE KNYCHA
wheelbasemedia.com

Parts chasing most likely began the very second that the very first stone wheel was carved.

Parts chasing is the art of finding stuff you need ... and going to get it. With cell-phone cams and video, email and eBay, you might not have to look very long for parts, but you still might have to travel far — very far — to get them.

So when a certain project vehicle requires a set of specific hard-to-find seats to get the interior under way, it doesn't take very long to locate them ... 1,491 kilometres away in Baltimore, Md. And then there's that fateful phrase: "Local pickup only."

Another wonderful piece of online technology called Mapquest tallies up the distance, shows you the route and even gives you an idea of how many hours or days of work you'll need to ditch so you can make the trip.

This is truly amazing when you think about how people chased down parts 15 years ago: vague rumours; detective work; guessing; no photos and aimlessly roaming the countryside in search of treasure, which was largely just junk.

Now, however, one phone call to Beltsville Auto Recyclers in Baltimore and the trip was on to secure what appeared to be the only available 2008 Chrysler Sebring front bucket seats on the face of the Earth that were not actually attached to the rest of the Sebring.

Like most normal businesses with a front door, Beltsville isn't open on the weekend, which just happens to be the only convenient time for two road-trippers to make the pick-up.

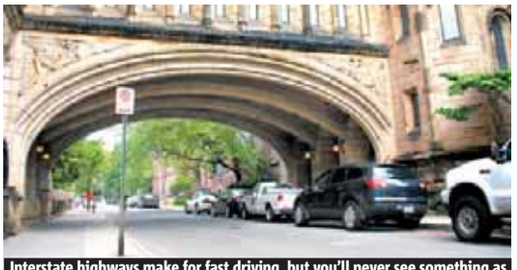
"Well then, we'll be there Monday morning at 8 a.m. and then drive like H-E-double-hockey-sticks to get back home for Tuesday."

A Beltsville staffer says he'll have the seats on a palette and ready to roll so it's time to hit the road. But while parts chasing 15 years ago — usually closer to home — might have taken a few hours on a weekend in an old half-ton truck, today we require a comfortable ride that can handle the load for 32 hours of driving and not, repeat not, consume the hotel budget via the gas tank.

Hotel budget? Although parts chasing is not exactly a dream vacation, a little creative thinking puts the fearless transporters in the middle of New York City for the weekend preceding the pick-up.

It might also be necessary to break up 32 hours of driving and perhaps the only way to entice a co-pilot to come along for the ride.

The Chevrolet Traverse easily swallows two bucket seats. Since shipping wasn't an option, a 3,000-kilometre drive to get them was the only way. Road trip! ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Interstate highways make for fast driving, but you'll never see something as grand as Yale campus in New Haven, Conn., if you don't take some time to smell the roses.

This is what a $650-a-night room looks like in Manhattan. Good thing the Traverse is good on fuel.

Fast food is the typical parts-chaser diet, but stay fresh by exploring and trying some new dishes.

Traverse + parts hunting = awesome

Arriving — eventually — at The Plaza hotel in Manhattan against an unrelenting river of taxicabs and rainfall, the Traverse was somewhat outgunned by a Rolls-Royce parked in behind, but it nicely acquitted itself in terms of cargo space and real-world functionality once at Beltsville two days later to pick up the seats.

- As with most cargo areas, the Traverse's is lined with soft textured plastic that is very easy to mark up, which, to the casual observer appears as premature wear or even abuse, even after a very short time. To reduce the ugliness, you need to strap down any right-angled cargo and even cover the edges with tape to prevent damage to the paneling.
- The big news, of course, is the vehicle's solid fuel economy, about 9.8 l/100 km on the highway for this all-wheel-driver (the standard model is front-wheel-drive), especially relative to the Traverse's large stature and Sebring-seat toting prowess. Part of this comes from an engine update that moves the fuel injectors into the combustion chambers from the intake-manifold ports. With advanced engine management (a hotshot computer), the Traverse runs with very little fuel when cruising and at the same time the improved combustion efficiency aids power.
- What's not to like? Line the cargo area with plywood and the Traverse is the modern version of a parts-chaser ride, no matter how far you have to go or what route technology has you taking to get there.

Well ... you can't fit two Sebring bucket seats in the back of a Rolls, now can you.

Chevy Traverse

Making the grade

When you basically live in a vehicle for four days, this is what the console top looks like.

The only vehicle that makes the grade for such a trek is a wagon that's large enough to pack enough laundry, road snacks, iPods, computer gear and two extra seats for four days of tolerable travel. Fifteen years ago, we would have likely picked a Chevrolet Suburban for the task, but since gas money no longer grows on trees, there are many more offerings today that are also thrifty-ish, which certainly factors into whether picking up seats located 1,491 kilometres away is a fiscally intelligent move in the first place.

So, from our press fleet we select a Chevrolet Traverse — the current model and not the tweaked 2013 edition — which is similar to the GMC Acadia and the fashion-statement Buick Enclave. The seven-passenger rig is loaded up with leather seats, two sunroofs, climate control, DVD entertainment, a punchy stereo, but sadly no navigation, and comes with a 288-horsepower 3.6-litre V6. By the way, that's more power than the V8 Suburban from 15 years ago.

No matter what vehicle you compare it to, the Traverse is large, certainly one of the biggest in class, and its slightly nose-heavy feel hints at that. However, the vehicle absolutely excels at comfy low-stress highway cruising and wading through the torrential rains that plague the better part of the getting-there leg. A smooth ride with a slightly soft rear suspension will keep long-distance travelers fresh and alert, which is handy when heading into New York City with the attitude that a map is somehow optional.

JOE KNYCHA IS A WRITER WITH WHEELBASE MEDIA. YOU CAN MESSAGE HIM USING THE CONTACT FORM AT WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM. WHEELBASE MEDIA IS A WORLDWIDE PROVIDER OF AUTOMOTIVE NEWS AND FEATURES STORIES.

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On the cutting edge of cuteness

Fiat 500c. The 'That's SOOOO adorable!' factor is often ignored in auto innovation, but car makers have made great strides

AUTO PILOT
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Mike Goetz found himself blasting heavy metal with the windows rolled down when driving this cutie-pie just to balance things out. MIKE GOETZ

Automotive technology is advancing at breakneck speeds. Just look at what's happened over the last few years to powertrain electrification, Internet connectivity, safety systems and fuel efficiency.

But today I would like to draw your attention to an area of auto tech that seems to get less attention than those aforementioned ones, but is nonetheless just as astonishing in its recent advances: Cuteness.

Automakers have always built cute cars, of course, but now they really mean business. The cute cars of yesteryear were mostly cute because they were loveable underdogs that didn't really measure up to the other vehicles on the road. Reinvented versions of the Volkswagen Beetle and Mini changed all that, and paved the way for modern cuteness. Now you can have a perfectly modern, useable car that is also as cute as the dickens.

No other vehicle has embraced this powerful formula as the Fiat 500c. I recently took a white one home for a week's test. Actually, it wasn't white, it was Blanco Perla with a Bordeaux retractable fabric red top, and matching red leather seats.

It was just too precious.

When I first showed up with it, all the females in our house, and lots on our street, came wandering over to take it all in. All of them loved the car, loved the colour combination, and said it was really cute.

But "really cute" wasn't strong enough for them. They had to add length, as in, "It's REEEALLY cute" and syllables: "It's really CA-YOOOOT."

Fiat Canada said females and males buy regular 500 models in an equal 50/50 split. The Fiat Cabrio and its extra level of cuteness? Seventy per cent female; 30 per cent male.

The company didn't have the female/male split for this particular white/red colour scheme, but I'm guessing 95/5. The overall look is a little bit too "lovely handbag" for most guys.

I think most guys get and appreciate cuteness. It's just that we have more natural defence to deal with it. We can walk away. Cuteness hits women where they live. When they see something like this Fiat, they get a visceral desire to take it home and give it a bath, or give it a hallowed place in the closet next to the other fashion accessories.

Driving something this cute is certainly different.

I found myself keeping the radio tuned to heavy metal, with the windows rolled down, just to, you know, balance things out a bit.

Both women and men check it out. I could be wrong, but after checking out the car, men seem also to check out whose driving it ... expecting a certain gender perhaps? Women, on the other hand, only have eyes for your car. They are not concerned about the driver. They are concerned about the cuteness of the car.

But no matter which chromosomes you have, or if you like the Fiat 500c or not, we need to appreciate the engineering, the high-tech, cutting-edge cuteness of the little Italian coupe — another shining example of automotive progress.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may have all the facts on your side but if you expect rivals to admit it, you will be disappointed. Some people are simply too stubborn to change their point of view. Sound like anyone you know?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What you want to do and what others want you to do are two entirely different things. It won't be long before you are free to come and go as you please but for now you may have to follow the herd.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You are on the verge of a major gain, so any minor setbacks you may encounter today are worth suffering. Creatively and romantically this is very much your time of year, so make sure you enjoy it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It's good to be romantic but watch out that attraction does not become infatuation. If you allow your love life to distract you from your work both will suffer in the long-term. Do the right thing at the right time.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You are taking your money situation too seriously. From today, however, you will start to see that things are not as bad as you have allowed yourself to believe. It's strange but somehow they never are.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Not everyone can be as lucky as you. Not everyone can be as smart and funny and popular. Keep that fact in mind today when engaging people you find difficult to deal with. Maybe they're just jealous.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have a great future but for some reason you seem more concerned with your past at the moment. Put yesterday and last year out of your mind, completely. What's done is done and cannot be undone.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What occurs today may appeal to your zany sense of humour but try to remember that not everyone sees things the same way as you. Have a good laugh by all means but laugh with people, not at them.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are tempted to confide in someone you work with but the planets warn that may not be a good idea. Keep personal information to yourself over the next 24 hours. Don't give anything away.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Get away from your usual surroundings and do something that energizes you physically, mentally and emotionally. You have been pushing yourself far too hard of late. You need a break.

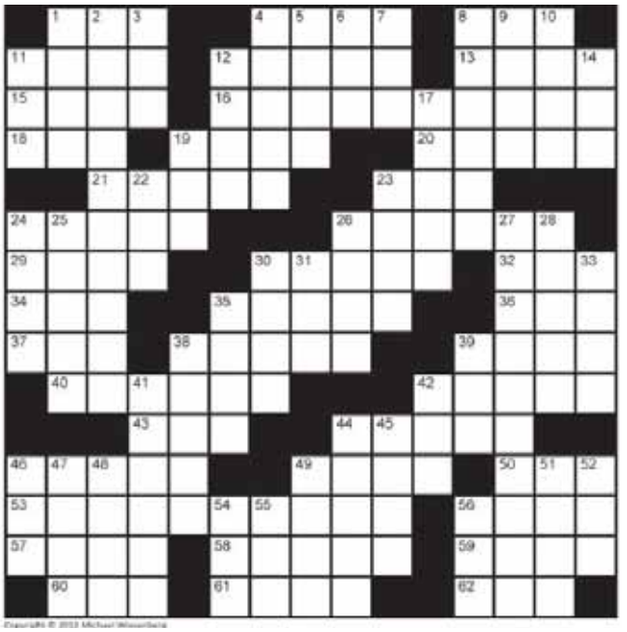
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You can expect some major, maybe extraordinary things to happen between now and the end of the week. They may not always be good things but good things will come of them in some guise or other.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Everyone has standards but you need to realize that not everyone's standards will be as high as your own. If you can do that, you are less likely to get angry when others' efforts fall short of expectations.

SALLY BROMPTON

Pick Your Own Title

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Upper limb
4. Spoken
8. CD ancestors
11. *Yours* or *to you* (singular): Fr. (2 wds.)
12. "___ Billie Joe": 1967 Bobbie Gentry song (2 wds.)
13. Acorn-dropping trees
15. Deafening
16. Maritime Province (2 wds)
18. Lower limb
19. Australian birds with green eggs
20. Foe
21. Float in place
23. Boxer Muhammed ___, the former Cassius Clay
24. Carried, as by the wind
26. Edmonton NHL team
29. Make ___ with: impress someone (2 wds.)
30. Banquets
32. And so on: abbr.
34. Unhappy
35. Casting director's assignments
36. Cause surface damage to
37. Before: poetic
38. Halifax-born singer McLachlan
39. Completely naked
40. Yellowknife is 400 miles south of this Circle
42. Apply juice, as to a turkey
43. Fled on foot
44. Call off (a mission), in NASA-speak
46. Book of maps
49. All over again
50. Recede, as the Bay of Fundy tide
53. Dentifrice
56. Burn the midnight oil studying
57. Comfortable state
58. Foreigner
59. Nevada's "The Biggest Little City in the World"
60. ___ Moines, Iowa
61. Votes cast in favor
62. Not even

Down
1. Dip ___ in the water: test bath temperature (2 wds.)
2. Saskatchewan CFL team member
3. Central
4. Smell
5. Guns, as an engine
6. ___ loss for words (2 wds.)
7. ___ Angeles
8. Dollar coin
9. Appetizer spread
10. ___ milk: 0% fat
11. Everything
12. "This one's ___": "My turn to buy" (2 wds.)
14. Speak
17. Biological building blocks
19. Night before
22. Quebec neighbour: abbr.
23. Is sick
24. Air Force installation
25. Scarlett ___
26. Promise
27. "'Digitally ___": fresh copy made from the original, in a DVD or CD notice
28. Begin
30. ___ Garneau: first Canadian in outer space
31. Historic period of note
33. They were among the original inhabitants of Ontario
35. Ache
38. Hidden cache
39. Tavern
41. Packing cases
42. Acknowledge applause
44. Puts money into a poker pot before cards are dealt
45. "What's ___ happening?"
46. Consumed
47. Frog's land-based cousin
48. Be an unsuccessful gambler
49. Largest continent
51. Group of marching musicians
52. RBC competitor
54. Earnings
55. Hearty pub order
56. ___-Magnon man

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		4	6		2			
	3					4	9	
6	7				1	8		
2		8	7				3	
				9				
	1				4	7		5
		9	4				1	7
	2	7					5	
			5		8	9		

Yesterday's Sudoku

Today 15°/7° Sunny
Thursday 15°/8° Sunny
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